TUESDAY
April 29, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 101

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BY PHYSICS WALLAH

UPSC CSE 2024 RESULTS

AIR 2

HARSHITA GOYAL
PW SRIJAN MAINS BATCH

AIR 14

ABHISHEK VASHISHTHA
PW PRAHAR & SRIJAN MAINS BATCH

AIR 8

RAJ KRISHNA JHA
PW SRIJAN (PRE + MAINS) BATCH

AIR 19

VIBHOR BHARDWAJ
PW SRIJAN (PRE + MAINS) BATCH

AIR 20

TRILOK SINGH
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'NO BASIS IN APPREHENSION'

SC declines ED's plea against ex-T.N. Minister

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KERALA'S AUTEUR

Shaji N. Karun, creator of everlasting images, dies

SOUTH » PAGE 9

MARKING 1945

Russia declares 3-day truce for 'Victory Day'

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CONSTITUTIONAL ANOMALY

Vacant office of Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha

The post is neither symbolic nor optional

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

A 14-YEAR-OLD SENSATION

Suryavanshi rewrites records in Royal style

SPORT » PAGE 17

J&K Assembly condemns terror strike unanimously

Political parties come together to pass resolution against the heinous, cowardly act that resulted in loss of lives in Pahalgam, endorse Centre's measures; CM highlights public condemnation of attack

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Expressing grief: J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah with MLAs during the special session of the Assembly on Monday. PTI

Cutting across the political spectrum, Jammu and Kashmir parties on Monday unanimously condemned the Pahalgam attack in a special Assembly session, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah delivering an emotional speech to drive home the message that people of J&K reject terrorism and share the grief of the victims' families.

The Assembly observed a two-minute silence to pay homage to the 26 people killed in the attack. "This was not just an attack on people from one State – it was an attack on the very soul of India. The victims hailed from across India, from Arunachal Pradesh to Gujarat, from Kerala to J&K, symbolising a national tragedy. True and lasting peace would only be achieved when the people stand firmly with the forces of peace and governance," Mr. Abdullah said.

The House unanimously passed a resolution condemning "the heinous, cowardly act that resulted in the loss of innocent lives". "Such acts of terror are a direct assault on the ethos of Kashmiriyat," it said.

Display of unity

The resolution commended the people of J&K for their extraordinary display of unity, compassion, and resilience in the aftermath of the attack. "This House endorses the diplomatic measures announced by the Union Government after the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on security", the resolution added.

It appealed to all the sections of society, in particular the media, "to not fall victim to this sinister plot by irresponsibly inflaming passions".

Underlining that security responsibilities no longer rested with the elected government in J&K, Mr. Abdullah said, "As Chief Minister and Minister of Tourism, I bear the responsibility for having invited the visitors and promising their safe return – a responsibility that I have failed to uphold."

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RAJNATH MEETS PM » PAGE 13

NEARBY

Tushar Giri Nath transferred

BENGALURU
Tushar Giri Nath, 1993 batch IAS officer, has been transferred out of his post of BBMP Chief Commissioner. The government has replaced him with Maheshwar Rao M., a 1995 batch IAS officer. » PAGE 2

CM loses temper at police after protest at rally

BELAGAVI
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's speech during a rally in Belagavi was disrupted by BJP activists who shouted slogans.

» PAGE 6

India, France finalise deal for 26 Rafale-Ms

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Deliveries are set to begin from mid-2028 and likely to be completed by 2030. DINAKAR PERI

India and France on Monday formally concluded an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA), valued at nearly ₹64,000 crore, to procure 26 Rafale-M fighter jets for the Indian Navy. Deliveries are set to begin from mid-2028 and likely to be completed by 2030.

The IGA was signed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Armed Forces of France Sebastien Lecornu remotely.

"The deal includes training, simulator, associated equipment, weapons, and performance-based logistics. It also includes additional equipment for the existing Rafale fleet of the Indian Air Force," a Defence Ministry statement said, adding that the crew will undergo training in France and India. The IGA also includes transfer of technology for the integration of indigenous weapons, such as the Astra Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile, on the Rafale jets.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

At 3% growth in March, IIP falls behind estimates

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 3% as electricity and manufacturing sector production surged in March 2025, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The number was lower than the *Reuters* estimate of 3.3%.

On a year-on-year basis, IIP growth came in at 4%, making it the slowest in four years. Growth in capital goods output increased at a slower 2.4% in March, compared with 8.1% in the month before. Industrial growth has domestic tailwinds but will face global headwinds, say experts.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 15

After outrage, instructions on *mangalasutra*, religious symbols for RRB exam modified

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/BENGALURU

Following widespread criticism on instructions that candidates would not be allowed to wear 'mangalasutra' and other religious symbols while appearing for the nursing recruitment examination held by the Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), the Ministry on Monday modified them and issued a clarification allowing the same.

According to an official communique by the Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of South Western Railway, Manjunath Kanamadi, RRB has taken cognisance of the issue and come out with an official clarification.

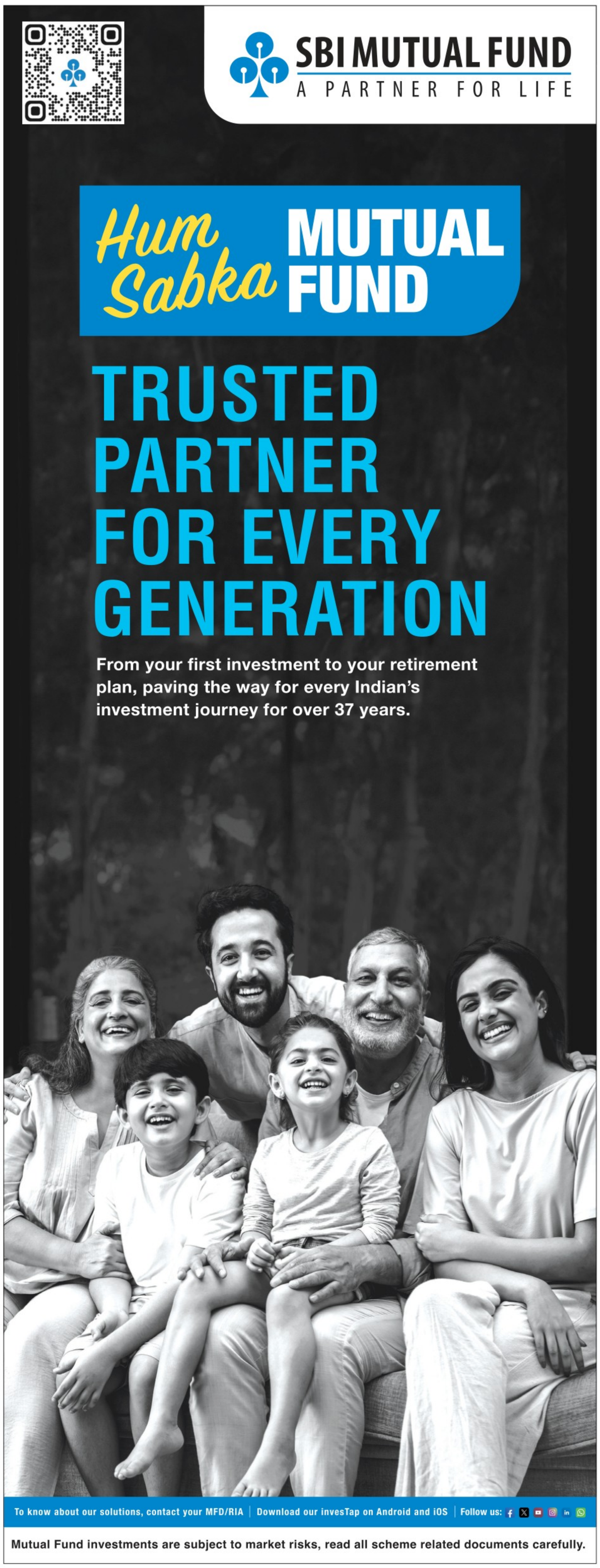
The issue had embarrassed the BJP as the party had recently launched an attack on the Congress government in Karnataka following a couple of students not being allowed to write the CET exam wearing *janivara* ('sacred thread'). The BJP had accused the party of hurting religious sentiments of Hindus.

In the clarification, the RRB has said on Monday, "Examinations conducted by RRBs have certain stipulations that lead to restrictions imposed on certain items being carried into the examination centres. However, in order not to hurt any religious sentiments, the competent authority has hereby decided to modify the para 7 of instructions contained in the call letter."

RRB has modified under para 7 (ii) that "during frisking, candidates found carrying/ wearing metallic wears, religious symbols, bangles, ornaments, mangal sutra, bracelets shall be allowed inside the examination hall with suitable endorsement in their call letter so that, invigilators shall be extra vigilant for such candidates."

Earlier in the day, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President D.K. Shivakumar had launched a counter-attack by hitting out at the Centre for banning religious symbols such as *mangalasutra* and *janivara* in the Railways examination and had sought withdrawal of such a ban.

"Ear studs, nose studs, *mangalasutra, janivara, bindi* and *ududaara* are all religious symbols. The authorities are free to examine them to know if there are any concealed electronic gadgets, but it is not correct to ban them," he had said.



SPORTZPICS/WPL

Cricket constantly on my mind... dream is to play in a World Cup

Sree Charani talks about her time at DC, the support from Arundhati, Jemimah, Jonassen and Lanning; her exposure in kho kho, badminton and athletics before taking up cricket full-time

INTERVIEW

N. Sree Charani

Anirudh Velamuri

It's not easy for a young up-and-comer to make an impression in a team stacked with superstars. But N. Sree Charani did just that in the recently concluded iteration of the Women's Premier League, where she represented runner-up Delhi Capitals.

The 20-year-old left-arm spinner featured in crucial games against Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Mumbai Indians (final), leaving a lasting impression on teammates, including skipper Meg Lanning, and those watching from the stands and on TV.

With selectors keeping an eye on her domestic performances, where she proved handy with the bat too, Charani unsurprisingly earned a maiden India call-up for the Tri-Nation series involving India, South Africa, and Sri Lanka in the island nation. In her debut game against the host, she finished with two wickets, conceding just 26 runs in eight overs.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, the Kadapa native looked back at her maiden WPL stint, her call-up to the senior National team, how COVID-19 pandemic shaped her budding career, and more. *Excerpts*

What was your initial reaction to getting the India call-up?

I was very proud of it. Playing with Harman *di* (Harmanpreet Kaur), Smriti (Mandhana) *di*, Jemi *di* (Jemimah Rodrigues), they are such legends of the game, and to be playing with them is a pleasure.

I knew that they would see my performances in the WPL. I had the hope that if I performed in the Multi-day Challenger (in Dehradun), I might have a chance.

When I played in that tournament, after my first match, I felt there was a chance of getting the call-up. I got a six-wicket haul, and felt like I bowled well in that match. I thought if I kept performing like this in the next few games, then I stood a chance.

Was the call-up that came for the Tri-Series validating, given all your efforts to come through the ranks?

When I officially got the news, there was a Challenger match going on. I was in the dressing room. Harleen (Deol) *di* and Yasthika (Bhatia) *di* entered, gave me the news, and congratulated me.

Actually, we sort of knew beforehand about the news because they asked us for our jersey [name, number, and size] the previous night, and I had shared it with my parents. I told them that there was a chance [of getting a call-up]. I was actually a little nervous then, wondering what would happen, and I was a little tense till I got the confirmation.

I spoke with my parents six hours after I got the official news. My mother and my uncle were very excited. Everyone was excited, honestly, but they both were a little extra happy.

Were you always into cricket, or did you try your hand at other sports in your younger days?

My father first enrolled me in badminton when I was in class six. I used to play, come home, and then start move to playing cricket. He then made me sign up for an academy in Proddatur and even complained to the coaches there that I would return home after coaching and start playing cricket without taking any rest.

I played Kho Kho in school too. Usually, I would come home and then head to play Kho Kho by 5:30pm. I used to go early, play cricket, and then go for Kho Kho.

Cricket was constantly on my mind. Even when I was going for athletics, I used to ask my father about joining a cricket academy. When I was in Class 10, he finally agreed to let me switch to cricket full time.

How did COVID-19 affect your game?

COVID-19 helped me a lot, actually. There was a mud ground near my house, I used to work on both batting and bowling there, alongside my brothers and friends. I played a lot and had no fear of playing the game even before I started training professionally.

I then went to an academy in Hyderabad for training. That's where my name was submitted for the state U-19 probables list. That's how everything fell into place for me.

Tell us your first impressions of life with the Delhi Capitals in the WPL.

SLC

When I first joined the DC camp, I did not have any idea of how things would be. The team gave me a lot of comfort; it was a fantastic group.

I am normally a very calm person. Jemi *di* used to come and speak with me a lot, she would give me the same amount of comfort that Aru (statemate Arundhati Reddy) *akka* used to give. That helped me settle down quickly.

Who among the squad ended up becoming your close friends during your time with the franchise?

Aru *akka* and Jemi *di* took care of me very well. Whatever was there or whatever I needed, I could ask them very freely. There is no language barrier between Aru *akka*, so I would ask her if I had any doubts. I was very comfortable with Aru *akka* and Sneha (Deepthi) *akka* because we all speak the same language, as well as Jemi *di* and Lisa (Keightley) ma'am. Even after the WPL final, Jemi *di* came and told me, "While your analysis may be different, please know that you bowled very well."

How did the WPL playing experience help and change you, if at all?

As a person, I have not changed much, but as a professional, my routines have changed. Take food consumption, for example. I keep an eye on the amount of protein, fiber, and vitamins I consume.

I have been very inspired after seeing everyone in the WPL, in the DC team, and beyond - their routines, their discipline, and more. I understood why all those players have achieved as much as they have, and the amount of work that went into achieving it.

Videos of your camaraderie with DC assistant coach Lisa Keightley were quite popular during the league. What has your association with her been like?

Lisa ma'am (DC assistant coach) is very experienced. She was very helpful. I got feedback on what I can do, what to improve in my bowling, and a lot more. She was the reason why I got some structure and clarity in my game. We had Jess (Jonassen) at DC who is a very experienced left-arm spinner and one of the world's best. What Lisa ma'am used to do was speak with her and also with Meg (Lanning), and ask them 'What's going on with Shree? What can she do today to improve?' and get information. That used to be very helpful to me; it would give me a clear plan on what I could and should be doing.

Lisa ma'am is the reason why my bowling got a lot more clarity. She used to help me a lot, not just in cricket but in all things; she would give me a lot of guidance. She is a very funny person also, and she can handle anything with a smile. She doesn't take anything to heart, she is a very genuine person.

How was your relationship with your captain Lanning?

My relationship with Meg was good. She also used to guide me a lot. She would tell me how and where to bowl, what kind of fields to set, how to bowl to a particular field, and more. In the match, she would talk to me before every ball and remind me of the plan we discussed.

I learned how to be calm from her, irrespective of the situation. When I was getting smashed for sixes in the WPL final, if Meg wasn't around, I would have been more nervous. She and the whole team were constantly cheering me on, telling me when I was doing well.

That final was disappointing for the DC faithful. How do you look back at that match?

When I look back, I feel bad about it. I think I could have performed slightly better, maybe. I felt that right after the match and even now, when I think about it.

How did your family and friends react to your WPL stint?

All of my friends and family watched my WPL matches. I got a lot of messages after the two matches I played in WPL. It took me two days to reply to all those messages. Those messages gave me a lot of confidence in my performance during the league.

There was a lot of praise for your fielding in the WPL. How do you go about working on improving that aspect of your game?

I was a much better fielder, but I am not that good right now. I need to work on that, since I am just making my way back from a few niggles. It will take about six months for me to get back to my old self. It doesn't matter if I am in the playing 11. I would go and take catches daily, work with Milap (Mewada, the fielding coach at DC). If I wasn't playing in a match, I would finish bowling and stay with him and then take catches for about 20 minutes, which eventually helped me.

Are you keeping an eye on the Women's World Cup in India later this year?

Every player will want to take part in the World Cup, that's obvious. If I have to go there, I need to focus on the present. My dream is to play for India, and if possible, in a World Cup. But I am not going to think about that. I will keep working hard. Whatever has to happen will happen.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, RAYAGADA.
e-mail:-eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NO.EEPHDRAYAGADA-02/2025-26 DT.22.04.2025

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding	
						From	To
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply System for three years in connection with "Augmentation of Water supply to Rayagada Town".	EEPHDRAYAGADA-02/2025-26 Dtd.22.04.2025	200.32	"B" & "A" Class	36 (Thirty - Six Months)	07.05.2025	22.05.2025

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid : **Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Rayagada. Email : eephd.rgda.od@nic.in, eephdrgda@gmail.com**
* Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **"https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"**.
* All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, RAYAGADA
C-164: OIPR-13052/11/0018/2526

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675 Fax : 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/2025-26 Date : 25.04.2025.

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 02/2025-26

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 03 tenders as per KPPP Portal 2.0 act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal in KW- 3&4 Tender bid documents under 15th Finance for the year 2024-25 cow, AMRUT 2.0 Reform Incentive Grant Action plan scheme. The bid documents can be downloaded from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 2) Estimate Sanction cost: lowest amount **Rs. 15.00 lakhs & Highest amount Rs. 77.50 lakhs.** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 72,100.00 & Highest Rs. 2,67,000.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: 26.05.2025 upto 11-00 am., 4) Last date of Bid Submission: 26.05.2025 upto 4-30 pm., 5) Technical Bid Opening date: 27.05.2025 upto 4-35 pm. 6) Financial Bid Opening date: 28.05.2025 after 11:30 am. 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/67/KSMC&A/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560051. Email-Id: dgm3bswml@gmail.com

No.DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/PPP/PR01/2025-26 Date: 28.04.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible tenderers for the works mentioned in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for services through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified is as per the standard bidders documents. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents.

Sl No.	Name of the Work	*Approx. Capital Cost to Bidder under PPP model (Rs. in lakhs) excluding GST	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Cost of Bid Document
Appointment of Concessionaire on Design Build Finance Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) with 100% Concessionaire Investment for the work of **Collection, Primary Transportation & Secondary Transportation of C&D Waste to Proposed Processing Plants including establishment of Processing Plants** in the below different package for a Concessionaire period of 15 years,				
1	Package – 1 (750 TPD Collection, Primary Transportation & Secondary Transportation and processing of C&D waste as per the locations mentioned in RFP), Call-3.	5325.00	Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-payment under the following i.e. online /RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.25,62,500/- by Bank Gurantee / FDR issued by Nationalised / Scheduled Bank	As per KPP portal

Calendar of Events:
1. Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **07.05.2025 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal.**
2. Pre bid meeting: **07.05.2025 at 15.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore.
3. Last date for submission of the bids: **13.05.2025 upto 16.00 Hrs.**
4. Date of opening of Technical bid on : **14.05.2025 at 16.30 Hrs.**
5. Date of opening of Financial bids to be notified to technically qualified bidders.
6. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
7. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/410/SSC/2025-26

THE HINDU GROUP
'SPORTSTAR
DAY 39
INDIAN POSTER LEAGUE
Play now & start winning!

1. Which country won its first-ever World Cup title at the 1992 Cricket World Cup, defeating England in the final at the MCG?
2. Which bowling technique, involving late swing, was key to Pakistan's success in the 1992 World Cup?
3. Which seamer, nicknamed the 'Sultan of Swing,' became the first player to take 500 wickets in ODI cricket?

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**
Yesterday's poster: Ravindra Jadeja
Yesterday's Winners:
1. Sujay Kumar, Shillong | 2. Bharadwaj Reddy, Pune | 3. C.Senthil Kumar, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of General Public that our client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its absolute owner Mr.Dev Ramnane S/o Deepak Ramnane, Any persons having any right, claim or interest, whatsoever, over the Schedule Property shall lodge their objections/claims with relevant documents, at our address mentioned below, within 7 days from the date of this publication, after which our client will proceed with the proposed transactions to purchase the Schedule Property and no claims will be entertained after the said period.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.22/1, formerly portion of composite plot No.22/1, Brunton Road Cross, Bengaluru, measuring on Eastern side:88 feet, Western side: 86 feet 9 inches, Northern side:40 feet 3 inches and Southern side:40 feet 3 inches and bounded on:
East by : Premises bearing No.22 belonging to N.K.N.Iyengar,
West by : Premises bearing No.22/2 belonging to Balakrishna Nair,
North by : Premises bearing No.38,
South by: Burton Road Cross

Shivaram Bhat Associates
Advocate & Solicitors
No.6, 2nd floor, No.35/11 Kasthuri Apartments, Langford Road Cross, Shanthinagar, Bangalore – 560 025
Ph: 9342223330.

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT AT BENGALURU
O.S No. 1582 / 2023

BETWEEN:
Sri. C.V. Hassan Ali @ Hassan Ali Cherola Valappil, S/o Late K.P Aboo, Aged about 64 years,R/at Shazvilla Church Road, Matool Central, Kannur District-670 302, Kerala State.
Rep by its GPA Holder Sri. Navab.E.K, Aged about 52 years, R/at Flat No.502, R.K Enclave, No.2, M.M Road Cross, M.K Palya, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560 005. **...Plaintiff**
And:
Sri. Mukesh Mittal ...Defendant

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT
To: Mr. Mukesh Mittal, S/o Gajanan Mittal, Aged about 50 years, R/at Mittal Basera, 1st Floor, 10th Main, 1st Cross, BWSSB Park, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560 080.

Whereas, the plaintiff above named has filed the above suit against the defendant for the relief of cancellation and other relief/s in respect of the schedule property. The Defendant may be directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through the pleader on the **12.06.2025 at 11 AM** to defend the above case, failing which the matter will be heard ex-parte.

SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Sy. No. 40/p16, present Sy. No.40 of Kumbalagodu Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring 2-00 Acres and bounded on:
East by: Munivenkatappa's Property
West by: Muninarayanamma's Property and Thagachaguppe Village Gadi
North by: Road
South by: Manjegowda's Property

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 28th April 2025. **By Order of the Court**
***Sd/-* Chief Ministerial Officer**
Senior Civil Judge Court, Bengaluru Rural Dist, Bengaluru

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

KPCL invites Bids in two parts through GoK KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in** for the following works.

SHARAVATHY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

1). KPCL/2025-26/1ND1607, Date:17.04.2025, Supply of 1360 Nos. of various types of Carbon brushes & 20 Nos. of Carbon brush spring holder set for SVP, KPCL, Jogfalls - 577435. EMD - **Rs. 18,902/-**.Last date and time for receipt of tenders: **05.05.2025 up to 16:30 Hrs.** Any further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (MSP)J, KPCL, Jogfalls - 577435, Shimoga District,** Mobile: **94495 98847,** e-mail: **eemspj@gmail.com.**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-Tender Notification

This office letter No. 033/PB/Tnd/2025-26/5054/264/
Dated : 24-04-2025

On 24-04-2025 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. 17405-2nd call & 17426-2nd call. Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated: 05-05-2025 (upto 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- N.N. PATIL
Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Haveri

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan

IFT No.01/2025-26, Dated: 21.04.2025
EXTENTION-1

As per the above notification last date of receipt of tender was 29-04-2022. Tender dates for the work in the above notification are extended. As per the extension last date of receipt of tenders are 12-05-2025 upto 17.00 hours Technical Bid will be opened on 13-05-2025. Qualified bidders financial bid will be opend on 14-05-2025 at 17.00 hours. Further details can be had from E-Proc portal (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ಟೆಸನ/ಡಾಸನ/59/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer
Manchanabele Project Division, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2978 2259. E-mail : eempdrmgm@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 02/2025-26 Date : 28-04-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The CNNL hereby invites **Tender for the Road and Other Development Work** under 4701 Head Account through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal of Ramanagara and Kanakapura Constituency.**

The Last Date for Pre Bid Meeting, Tender Submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid Dates, EMD details and more information can be downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal and for further information please visit Office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, C.N.N.L., M.P. Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/57/Manipal/2025-26

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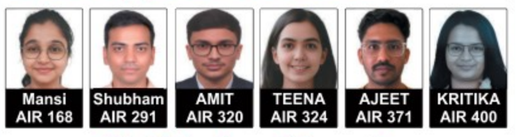
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CMC VELLORE ADMINISTRATION

PERSONAL | **PERSONAL**

CHANGE OF NAME | **CHANGE OF NAME**

I, HANUMANTHA Reddy Krishna, R/a No.300, Rainbow Residency Layout, Junnasandra, Carmelaram Post, Bangalore-560035 have changed my name to Hanumantha Reddy Krishna Reddy vide affidavit dt: 15.04.2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, HANUMANTHARAJU Reddy Govindraju Soumya, R/a No.617, 80 Feet Road, 4th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034 have changed my name to Sowmya vide affidavit dt: 15.04.2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hitherto Known As B Kunal Alias Kunal B S/O Venkatesh Balakrishna Residing At 209, Mathapathi Brundaavan 2nd Cross, 8th A Cross Rd, Kaggadasapura, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560093, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Kunal Balakrishna For All Future Purposes

I, Hitherto Known as Sangeeta Prabhurao Alias Sangeeta W/o Sanjeev Biradar & D/o Prabhu Rao Residing at 22, 3rd a Cross, Near Annapoorneshwari Temple, Anand Nagar. 1st Block Hebbal, Hebbal Village, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560024, Have Changed My Name and Shall Hereafter Be Known as Sangeeta Sanjeev Biradar for All Future Purposes

I, Karikalan Sigamani S/o Sigamani M R/o 105 First Floor Sapphire Block Wilson Manor Apartments, 15 Arekempanahalli, Next to Nimhns, Arekempanahalli Bangalore, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560027, Have Changed the Name of My Minor Son Namely K. Sharvesh (Aged 14 Years 8 Months) and He Shall Hereafter Be Known as Sharvesh Karikalan for All Future Purposes

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **S NARAYANAPPA**, aged 43 years, S/o S. Venkatappa, R/at Door No. 121, 9th Cross, Opp. Gangamma Temple, Kodihalli, Bengaluru-560 008 do hereby that I have changed my son's name from **S DHARSHAN** to **S DHANVEER TEJ,** henceforth he shall be known and called as **S DHANVEER TEJ** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 4th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary dated 4th April 2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **D.B. RAMESH BASHKAR** at Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE MOTOR ACCIDENTS CLAIMS TRIBUNAL PALAKKAD
Arun Manickam, S/o Manickam, 42, Thachanthottam North, East Street-8 Neelikonampalayam, Coimbatore South, Tamilnadu 641033.
- Petitioner
1) K. Ganesan, S/o.Kandaswami, 107, 4th cross, Kalasipalayam, New Extension Banglore 560002.
2) Vijayakumar. V, S/o Viswanathan, No.20, 2nd Main, K.P.N. Extension, Banglore, - 560002
- Respondent No 1&3

The above petition is posted for your appearance on 09.05.2025 you are hereby directed to appear before this Court in person or by a pleader on 09.05.2025 at 11 AM failing which the case will be heard exparte.

S. SIVAKUMAR BAL, LLB.,
Advocate - (K-920/1974)
Tharas Law Chamber,
Behind Civil Station
Palakkad - 678 001
26.04.2025

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited
5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector- 44 I Gurgaon- 122002 Ph: 0124 - 4527200

Rule 8(1)
POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas,
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited ("Encore ARC"), acting in its capacity of being Trustee of EARC – BANK – 030 – Trust, has acquired all rights, title and interests of Indostar Capital Finance Limited ('ICFL'), in the financial assets of (i) Mr. Vinod Gopinath Mysore Venugopal, (ii) M/s. Prosports Venture India Pvt ltd.,, & (iii) Mrs. Usha Vinod (Since no more now, represented by her Legal Heirs) ('Borrowers'), originated by ICFL, vide a registered Assignment Agreement under section 5 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 ('SARFAESI Act, 2002').
And whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('Rules'), issued a demand notice dated 30.12.2024 calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,55,63,556/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Six only) as on 08.12.2024 together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. 09.12.2024, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given by the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 25.04.2025.
The borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited for an amount of Rs.1,55,63,556/- (Rupees One Crore Fifty Five Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Six only) as on 08.12.2024, together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. 09.12.2024.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule of Properties
Description of Immovable Properties:

All that the Property Plot No.121, 42nd cross, 8th block, Jayanagar, Extension, Near Sangam Circle, Bangalore-560082. admeasuring 1,500 sq ft bounded as under: East : Site No.122, West : Site No.120, North : 42nd Cross Road, South : Site No.150, Owned by Vinod Venugopal Mysore

Date: 25.04.2025
Place: Bangalore

K.Nagendran
Authorized Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited
5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector- 44 I Gurgaon- 122002 Ph: 0124 - 4527200

Rule 8(1)
POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited **("Encore ARC"),** acting in its capacity of being Trustee of EARC – BANK – 030 – Trust, has acquired all rights, title and interests of Indostar Capital Finance Limited **('ICFL'),** in the financial assets of M/s.Penguins Promo Products Private Limited, Mr Lalit Jain and Ms Nirmal Bantiya, originated by **ICFL** vide a registered Assignment Agreement dated 24.04.2024 under section 5 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 ('SARFAESI Act, 2002'). And whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 **('Rules'),** issued a demand notice dated **20.01.2025** calling upon the borrowers M/s.Penguins Promo Products Private Limited (Noticee No.1) , Mr. Lalit Jain (Noticee No.2) and Ms.Nirmal Bantiya, (Noticee No.3 to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.4,31,66,451/- (Rupees Four Crore Thirty One Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty One Only) as on 26.12.2024** together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. **27.12.2024,** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given by the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, to the borrowers/mortgagors and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on **25.04.2025.**
The borrowers/mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited for an amount of **Rs.4,31,66,451/- (Rupees Four Crore Thirty One Lakhs Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty One Only) as on 26.12.2024** together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. **27.12.2024.**
The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTIES
DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS:

PROPERTY NO.1 Row House / Villament bearing No. 42: Description of above property as per Sale Deed is as under:
SCHEDULE – A (Description of the Entire Property) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Converted Sy. Numbers 163/3 & 163/2 (converted vide the Order bearing No. ALN (EVH) SR 587/2011-12, dated 18.06.2012, converted vide the Order bearing No ALN (EVH) SR 5/2012-13, dated 18.06.2012, both the order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), totally measures about 2 Acres 19 Guntas., situated at Varthur Village, VarthurHobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on the, East by: Land in Sy No.162 belongs to V.M.Munithimmayya, West by: Road & Land in SY No.169 belongs to Muni Shamanna, North by: Land in Sy No.98 belongs to Inamti Land of Sri Chennarayaswamy Temple, South by: Land in Sy No.163/2 belongs to GaadiChinappa
SCHEDULE – B (Property sold to the Purchaser) All that piece and parcel of residential Row house / Villament bearing No: 42 Constructed in the Schedule A property its known as ""COURTYARD"", in all measuring 1983.718 sq. ft,. of Undivided land area (common areas), 797.28 sq. ft. of additional garden area and 2144.56 sq. ft. of built-up area, vitrified Flooring along with One Covered Car Parking Space with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the, EAST: Road, WEST: Garden, NORTH: Garden, SOUTH: Row house/Villament No.41, This Unit is more fully described in the KEY PLAN AND THE SKETCH - approved Blue print and architectural plan .
SCHEDULE – C (Description of the house property constructed) A Three Bedroom, residential Row house/Villament, constructed in Ground + First floor+ Terrace, in the Schedule B Property, having a built- up area of 2144.56 sq. ft., vitrified Flooring along with One Covered Car Parking Space (which is inclusive of common wall between two residential units as may be applicable depending on the type of unit, and proportionate share of built-up area of the club house facility). (Subject to all other applicable terms and conditions as mentioned in the Sale Deed)
PROPERTY NO.2 Row House / Villament bearing No. 03: Description of above property as per Sale Deed is as under:
SCHEDULE – A (Description of the Entire Property) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Converted Sy. Numbers 163/3 & 163/2 (converted vide the Order bearing No. ALN (EVH) SR 587/2011-12, dated 18.06.2012, converted vide the Order bearing No ALN (EVH) SR 5/2012-13, dated 18.06.2012, both the order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), totally measures about 2 Acres 19 Guntas., situated at Varthur Village, VarthurHobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on the, East by: Land in Sy No.162 belongs to V.M.Munithimmayya, West by: Road & Land in SY No.169 belongs to Muni Shamanna, North by: Land in Sy No.98 belongs to Inamti Land of Sri Chennarayaswamy Temple, South by: Land in Sy No.163/2 belongs to GaadiChinappa
SCHEDULE – B (Property sold to the Purchaser) All that piece and parcel of residential Row house / Villament bearing No: 03 Constructed in the Schedule A property its known as ""COURTYARD"", in all measuring 2388.035 sq. ft, of Undivided land area (common areas), 897.61 sq. ft. of additional garden area and 2581.66 sq. ft. of built-up area, vitrified Flooring along with One Covered Car Parking Space with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the, EAST : Garden, WEST : Road, NORTH: Row house/Villament No.02, SOUTH: Row house/Villament No.4, This Unit is more fully described in the KEY PLAN AND THE SKETCH - approved Blue print and architectural plan.
SCHEDULE – C (Description of the house property constructed) A Three Bedroom, residential Row house/Villament, constructed in Ground + First floor+ Terrace, in the Schedule B Property, having a built- up area of 2581.66 sq. ft., vitrified Flooring along with One Covered Car Parking Space (which is inclusive of common wall between two residential units as may be applicable depending on the type of unit, and proportionate share of built-up area of the club house facility). (Subject to all other applicable terms and conditions as mentioned in the Sale Deed)
PROPERTY NO.3 Row House / Villament bearing No. 04: Description of above property as per Sale Deed is as under:
SCHEDULE – A (Description of the Entire Property) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Converted Sy. Numbers 163/3 & 163/2 (converted vide the Order bearing No. ALN (EVH) SR 587/2011-12, dated 18.06.2012, converted vide the Order bearing No ALN (EVH) SR 5/2012-13, dated 18.06.2012, both the order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), totally measures about 2 Acres 19 Guntas., situated at Varthur Village, VarthurHobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on the, East by: Land in Sy No.162 belongs to V.M.Munithimmayya, West by: Road & Land in SY No.169 belongs to Muni Shamanna, North by: Land in Sy No.98 belongs to Inamti Land of Sri Chennarayaswamy Temple, South by: Land in Sy No.163/2 belongs to GaadiChinappa
SCHEDULE – B (Property sold to the Purchaser) All that piece and parcel of residential Row house / Villament bearing No: 04 Constructed in the Schedule A property its known as ""COURTYARD"", in all measuring 2388.035 sq. ft, of Undivided land area (common areas), 797.28 sq. ft. of additional garden area and 2581.66 sq. ft. of built-up area, vitrified Flooring along with One Covered Car Parking Space with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the, EAST : Garden, WEST : Road, NORTH: Row house/Villament No.03, SOUTH: Club House, This Unit is more fully described in the KEY PLAN AND THE SKETCH - approved Blue print and architectural plan.
SCHEDULE – C (Description of the house property constructed) A Three Bedroom, residential Row house/Villament, constructed in Ground + First floor+ Terrace, in the Schedule B Property, having a built- up area of 2581.66 sq. ft., vitrified Flooring along with One Covered Car Parking Space (which is inclusive of common wall between two residential units as may be applicable depending on the type of unit, and proportionate share of built-up area of the club house facility). (Subject to all other applicable terms and conditions as mentioned in the Sale Deed)

Date: 25-04-2025
Place: Bangalore

K Nagendran
Authorized Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd

NIA officials visit Pahalgam terror victim Bhushan's house

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Soon after taking over the investigation of the Pahalgam terror case, the National Investigation Agency officials visited the wife of Bharath Bhushan, who was killed by terrorists, and gathered information related to the attack.

The NIA investigators spoke with Dr. Sujatha, Bhushan's wife, at their home in Mathikere and recorded her statement about the attack and their visit in detail. The officials sought details about the attack on her husband, if the terrorists spoke to Dr. Sujatha and if yes, what her response was and the physical features of the attackers.

The victim, an engineer, had travelled with his wife and three-and-a-half-year-old son to Jammu and Kashmir on April 18, just four days after his 41st birthday. The terror attack occurred on April 22.

Maheshwar Rao to head BBMP, Tushar Giri Nath transferred as ACS, UDD

However, Tushar Giri Nath will be administrator of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tushar Giri Nath

In a major administrative reshuffle, Tushar Giri Nath, 1993 batch IAS officer, has been transferred out of his post of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner. He has been posted as the Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Urban Development Department. However, he will be administrator of the BBMP.

The transfer comes into immediate effect following the retirement of IAS officer Umashankar S.R., who is the BBMP administrator, on April 30, 2025.

Mr. Giri Nath will be overseeing the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority and boundaries for the corporations. Mr. Giri Nath has also been given concurrent charge of Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Home Department.

The government has posted Maheshwar Rao M., a 1995 batch IAS officer, as BBMP Chief Commissioner. Mr. Rao has been given concurrent charge of the BBMP along with his current posting as Managing Director of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL).

The government notification further clarified that the posts of Administrator, BBMP, and Chief Commissioner, BBMP, are considered equivalent in status and responsibilities to the cadre post of Additional Chief Secretary to Government under Rule 12 of the IAS (Pay) Rules, 2016.

Mr. Giri Nath, in his tenure as the Chief Commissioner of the BBMP since 2022, saw both highs and lows. He handled one of the worst floods Bengaluru saw in 2023. His measures to manage floods reduced inundation of homes in the city during the rains in the succeeding years. He has also worked towards cracking down on illegal flexes and banners, although flexes continue to dot the city.

On the other hand, the poor state of roads in the city continued to haunt his tenure as well.

He also saw allegations of 'voter data theft' which created a political storm. On November 16, 2022, the BBMP said in a press release that it had cancelled permission granted to Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust, an NGO, to conduct house-to-house survey to help create awareness about Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) for allegedly collecting personal information from the public.

Set up cyber investigation bureau or give life to cyber command centre: High Court

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to give life to the Cyber Command Centre or constitute a separate wing to be called 'Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau' made up of officers with technical expertise to tackle cyber crimes.

The court also set up a Special Investigating Team (SIT), headed by Director General of Police Pronab Mohanty, and comprising senior IPS officer Bhushan Gulab Rao Borase and Nisha James, to probe a cyber crime case of alleged stealing of confidential defence technology data from a private drone development company, which has the Indian Armed Forces and defence public sector companies as its clientele.

No interrogation

The court found it necessary to constitute to a SIT while raising questions about the manner in which the investigating officers of the North-East CEN police station had conducted the probe without even subjecting the accused to custodial interrogation even after rejection of their anticipatory bail pleas by the courts.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the directions while allowing a petition filed by Newsspace Research and Technologies Pvt. Ltd., which is engaged in development and manufacture of drones for the defence sector.

Case filed in December

The petitioner-company had lodged a complaint with the CEN police station on December 24, 2024, against some of its former employees for allegedly stealing confidential data, including source codes, CAD designs, copyrighted information and project files and giving into another company where there later employed.

The HC noted that the investigating officer (IO) of CEN though had arrested a couple of accused after the direction of the court in March 2025 in New Delhi but strangely let them off by issuing a notice the next day asking them to appear for investigation. Despite rejection of their anticipatory bail pleas by the sessions court and the High Court, the IO had not even subjected the accused to custodial interrogation, the court noted.

Interference in probe

Meanwhile, the court also noticed alleged interference in investigation by some police officers from Karnataka and Rajasthan when the team of police officers had gone to Rajasthan for investigation and search of certain locations.

"An ordinary or a conventional IO would not be so equipped with such emerging crimes to decode the labyrinth of cyber crimes. Therefore, the IOs who are also acquainted with technology or trained in digital forensics, those who can trace the invisible and pierce encryption and unearth the data buried or data theft, would be required to deal with the emerging crimes," Justice Nagaprasanna observed.

Observing that if the crimes are sophisticated, the IOs too should be, the court said that investigation of the crimes like this one by an ordinary IO lacking in expertise in technology would amount to miscarriage of justice.

Noticing that the State has come up with a novel idea of a cyber command centre, the court said that a cyber command centre should be made meaningfully functional with appropriate officers at the helm. It is only then the State would leap forward to tackle the emergence and growth of cyber crime, failing which the citizens, who have been victims of cyber crime or cyber fraud will never get justice.

Pointing out that the rate of filing of chargesheets in new-age crimes is only at 9%, the court said it is not because the accused are not guilty but owing IOs lack of expertise in dealing with cyber crimes.

Public alert issued as fake ticket booking site targets BBP visitors

Visitors at the Butterfly Park in Bannerghatta. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The management of Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), on Monday issued a public alert after discovering a fraudulent website falsely claiming to offer online ticket bookings for its safari, zoo, and butterfly park services. BBP authorities, said the only legitimate platform for online ticket booking is the official website: www.bannerughattabiopark.org. Visitors are urged to avoid using any other sites or third-party links, as doing so could lead to financial loss, personal data theft, and invalid ticket purchases.

The BBP management is collaborating with law enforcement agencies to identify and take legal action against the creators of the fake website. "We request the public to stay vigilant," said Surya Sen A.V., Executive Director, BBP, in a release. The release urged people to always double-check the URL before making any payments and report any suspicious websites or links to the BBP authorities immediately.

The park emphasised that public cooperation is vital in curbing such fraudulent activities and protecting both the park's integrity and visitor safety.

Neighbourhood flour mills of Bengaluru fight for survival

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

As Bengalureans have shifted from buying grain and grinding them in flour mills to buying them ready-made, many such mills have shut down across the city. RAVICHANDRAN N.

On the narrow and winding Thyagaraj Nagar Main Road, bustling with pedestrians and vehicles in equal measure, you are suddenly hit by the aroma of fresh flour with a strong hint of chilli powder mixed with it. Your nose takes you to the source – a neighbourhood flour mill. About two decades ago, such mills may have been a familiar sight in every area in Bengaluru, but now they are few and far between.

As Bengalureans have shifted from buying grain and grinding them in such mills to buying them ready-made, many flour mills have shut down. The few that still remain, like the one in Thyagaraj Nagar, are no longer milling with customers like they once did.

Mohan, who runs Venkatachalapati Mill, with a mask covering his face to keep the pungent smell of chilli powder away, said, "Business is not like it used to be. With the advent of supermarkets and online deliveries, flour is easily available everywhere. Only a handful of older people come to the flour mill."

While many flour mills in Bengaluru have shut down over the years, the ones still functional are being run by the same families for generations. The grinders they use were all brought from Chennai, as they were reportedly not available locally back in the fifties and sixties. "We have had this flour mill since 1964. Back then, business was very good, and we used to charge just ₹1 per kg. But in the last 25 years, we have seen the advent of ready flour, and we started losing our business. There is no guarantee if we will have business on a given day. I need at least around ₹2,000 a day to sustain and pay the salary to my worker," said Venkatesh, the second-generation owner of Venkateshwara Flour Mill in Vasanth Nagar.

The flour mill owners say if their fathers or grandfathers had not started this venture in their own spaces, they also would have shut shop by now. "The only reason we still keep the mill running is because we do not have the burden of rent as this is our own property," Mr. Venkatesh said.

For old time's sake

"My father and the owner of this flour mill were schoolmates. Since this mill was started around 70 years ago, this is where we get our flour ground still," said Bharathi, who had come to the Girija Flour Mill in Gandhi Bazaar.

The flour mill on D.V. Gundappa Road is a landmark in itself. From former PM H.D. Deve Gowda's family to Kannada thespian Dr. Rajkumar's family, most old families in Bengaluru have visited it.

Bharathi, along with her friend, had come in an autorickshaw to the mill with three buckets full of items. When asked why she chose to go through all the hassle and not just buy from a nearby store, she said, "We do not trust the purity and quality of the flour that comes in packets. It is often mixed with maida. After a few days, we see insects in the flour. But if we get it done, the shelf life and quality are assured. I get my chilli powdered here once a year, and it lasts without any infestation."

Prakash, the second-generation owner of the mill, says that he gets loyal customers like Bharathi, but adds that business is not as good as before. "We get very few family customers now, but the shops nearby get rice and wheat done here, and then sell it in packets. We are also the designated mill for all the hotels in the neighbourhood, including Vidyarthi Bhavan, and temples nearby," Mr. Prakash said.

No flour mill in newer neighbourhoods

In some newer areas, even though people are interested in going to flour mills, they cannot find any in their neighbourhood.

"I wanted to get some ingredients powdered for mango pickle. I scoured the area and could not find any flour mills. I ended up buying readymade powder instead," said Bharath D., a resident of Vijaya Bank Layout near Bannerghatta Road.

Flour mill owners say that while they are considered as cottage industries, they have not received any benefits from successive governments. "When compared to the flour that comes in packets, our quality is always superior. We appeal to everyone to do their best to save the neighbourhood mills," Mr. Prakash said.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

BMS Institute of Technology and Management conducted "Silicon Synergy 2025" a Semiconductor Industry Conclave and Expo

Silicon Synergy is a premier semiconductor industry conclave and expo oraganised in association with Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS). Event aims to foster collaboration between Academia and Semiconductor Industry. Part of the event was: Keynote address by Dr. Satya Gupta, 4 Technical Panels with 20+ experts and Industrial Product Exhibitions. This event is a gateway to the staff and students to get an insight on industry trends, exposure and R&D collaborations. During the inaguration of the event the Chief Guest Dr. Satya Gupta, Founder of IESA, EPIC Foundation, and President of VLSI Society of India, Mr. Sivaram Allamaraju, Design Group Director, Cadence and, Mr. Chandrashekar B U, Senior Architect, Synopsys, Principal Dr. Sanjay H A, Vice Principal Dr. Anil G N, Event coordinator Dr.Raju Hajare, Dr.Manjunath T N, Dean Career Guidance and student coordinators were present. The Chief Guest, Dr. Satyagupta, delivered a thought-provoking Keynote Address, emphasizing the need for academic institutions to continuously evolve and align with industry trends. Principal, Dr. Sanjay H A spoke about the institution's mission to create not just engineers, but visionaries – equipped with the skills, mindset, and confidence to make a difference in society. The panel focused on India's growing footprint in the global semiconductor industry. Experts discussed how innovation, policy support, and talent development are aligning to make India a major semiconductor hub. The heart of Silicon Synergy 2025 lay in its vibrant exhibition arena, featuring a diverse and dynamic range of industry, academic, and experiential stalls. Attendees engaged with experts, explored job and internship opportunities, and experienced real-world applications of electronics and embedded systems. These stalls showcased breakthroughs in semiconductors, embedded systems, AI, power electronics, and next-gen solutions.

Samskruthi-2K25, the annual cultural fest of East Point College of Engineering and Technology

The event was held with great enthusiasm and was inaugurated by the Chairperson of East Point Group of Institutions (EPGI), Smt. Ramadevi Venkatapathi. The event saw participation from around 100 colleges across the country, with more than 20,000 students actively taking part in various cultural competitions and performances. Events such as fashion show, solo singing, group dance and many others provided a platform for students to showcase their talent and passion for the arts. The highlight of Samskruthi-2K25 was undoubtedly the fashion show, which drew a massive crowd and appreciation. Another major attraction was the live performance by the renowned singer and actor Sri. Sonu Nigam, whose soulful songs and lively presence mesmerized the audience. Students thoroughly enjoyed his performance, making it one of the most memorable moments of the fest. The function was graced by esteemed dignitaries, including the Trustees and CEOs of EPGI, Sri Pramod Gowda and Sri Rajiv Gowda, Deans, Directors, Principals of EPGI institutions and faculty members were also present, adding prestige and support to the event. Samskruthi-2K25 was a grand celebration of culture, talent and unity among students from diverse backgrounds. It successfully provided a platform for young minds to express themselves, build connections, and create unforgettable memories.

JICE IAS Academy Bengaluru Celebrates Outstanding Results

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) today announced the results of the Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2024, and JICE IAS Academy has marked a significant milestone with 57 of its students securing top ranks in the final list, including 4 positions in the top 100 - Rank 8: Raj Krishna Jha(Bihar), Rank 11: Ettaboyina Sai Shivani(Telangana), Rank 41: Sachin Basavaraj Guttur(Karnataka), and Rank 77: Neelesh Goyal(Rajasthan). This remarkable achievement not only underscores the excellence of the academy but also signals a shift in India's civil services preparation landscape. With 10 successful candidates hailing from Karnataka and others from various states across India, including Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Telangana, Kerala & other States, JICE IAS Academy has proven its pan-India appeal and effectiveness. Traditionally known for its pleasant weather and vibrant food culture, Bangalore is now rapidly establishing itself as a powerhouse for UPSC preparation along with its Silicon Valley tag. The city, once overshadowed by Delhi in the civil services domain, is rising to prominence, thanks to the consistent performance of institutions like JICE. The Academy was envisioned by Sri. Jinendra Khanagavi, IPS in the year 2005. Speaking on the occasion, the directors of JICE IAS Academy Shri K.V. Khanagavi & Akil Anand Biraj said, "This is a proud moment not only for our academy but for Bangalore as a whole. Our students' success shows that, with the right guidance and dedication, aspirants from any background can crack the toughest exam in the country." With this year's results, JICE IAS Academy has set a new benchmark in quality coaching and mentorship, making Bangalore a destination to watch for serious UPSC aspirants.

Presidency university collaborates with Karnataka State Police, organises 'Namma Suraksha-Our Safety'

Presidency University Bengaluru with the support of Karnataka State Police organised a three- day national hackathon titled 'Namma Suraksha-Our Safety' in its campus. The hackathon received tremendous response from various colleges across Karnataka and the country. More than 300 participants registered for this hackathon that encouraged students to sharpen their coding skills, work on projects that require ethical hacking and solving real world problems .The event was inaugurated by IPS officer Shri Labhu Ram who spoke about the importance of technology in policing and how Karnataka Police relies on several technological tools to function better. Speaking on this occasion ,Dr.Vijayan Immanuel-VC, Presidency University said that the purpose of organising such events in the campus is to encourage the young minds to think, work and give solutions to societal problems. Dr.Sameer Khan-Pro VC (Engineering) expressed happiness for the support received from IEEE-Bangalore Section and corporate giants like L&T and IBM. He thanked the guests for attending the inaugural ceremony and a special vote of thanks was given to Ravi P-DSP, Doddaballapura & K.H Dileep Kumar ,Police Inspector, Rajanukunte Police Station and the entire Karnataka State Police for supporting this initiative.

Study reveals urban spider creates webs to block noise

Spiders in urban environments can build webs that filter out loud ambient vibrations, according to new research; India's urban centres are notorious for their noise pollution; there is a growing need to study and communicate the diverse consequences of human beings on wildlife globally

Vrinda Ravi Kumar
ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE, CZECHIA

New breakthrough: A funnel-weaving spider (*Agelenopsis pennsylvanica*). The new study raises questions about what its findings mean for animal communities living in rapidly urbanising places around the world. BRANDI PESSMAN

The next time you sweep away a cobweb without a second thought, consider this: the silken structure is an engineering marvel. According to new research published last week in *Current Biology*, a North American spider species can change how its webs transmit vibrations.

The authors have reported that spiders in urban environments can build webs that filter out loud ambient vibrations. Conversely, spiders from quieter rural spaces build webs that amplify biologically relevant vibrations they need to pick up in their noisy environment.

Spiders and their remarkable weaving abilities have been celebrated in folklore for thousands of years. West African folklore tales of Ananse, the trickster spider that could turn human, celebrate him as a wise creator. In Greek mythology, Arachne was a skilful woman who defeated Athena in a contest by weaving a flawless tapestry. She was turned into a spider in her afterlife, and goes on to create beautiful webs, or so the tale tells us.

Webs are tools of creation in mythology as well as material science. Spider silk is known to be an amazing natural material with unique properties. It has inspired researchers to develop materials derived from spider silk with applications in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. They are also studying the unique combination of strength and flexibility in spider silk for use in textile production.

A few decades ago, researchers began to study how vibrations in webs transmit critical information for spiders.

For the first time, however, researchers from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Brandi Pessman and Eileen Hebets, have shown that spiders can alter how they receive vibratory information in loud environments.

Vibratory information from the web is crucial for spiders because they don't have ears. Pessman, the lead author of the study, said, "Webs are more than just nets that catch bugs. They're actually extensions of the spider's sensory system."

Spider 'hearing' in a noisy world

The researchers studied one species of funnel-weaving spiders, *Agelenopsis pennsylvanica*, a species spread all over North America. They weave a funnel-shaped web into which they retreat to protect themselves from predators. Unlike their cousins that build orb-shaped webs, these spiders don't build sticky webs. Instead, this species uses just real-time vibrations in the web to sense when there's prey in it, then jumps out and injects them with venom.

Ms. Pessman noticed how sensitive these spiders were to vibrations. "Even my footsteps disturb the spiders, so they'd run into the retreat and hide," she said. She then started exploring how the spiders used the vibrations to detect prey. Ms. Pessman would tape a toothpick onto a vibrating toothbrush, then place the toothpick onto the funnel web. "The spider would reliably come out and attack the toothpick because they think it's prey," she recalled.

The researchers collected spiders both from a noisy city and its peaceful country surroundings and brought them back to the lab. They built small arenas for the spiders with a speaker at the bottom that played loud or quiet white noise to both urban and rural spiders.

Over the next four days, the spiders built their webs in these conditions. After this, the researchers tested 60 webs by sending controlled vibrations through them at either short or long range (3.5 cm and 7 cm, respectively, from the opening of the retreat), and recorded energy transmission. What they found was very illuminating.

"It's like the spiders are using their webs as their own personal volume dial," Ms. Pessman said.

When confronted with loud noise, city spiders built webs that dampened energy from a broad range of frequencies (300-1,000 Hz) at the short range. On the other hand, rural spiders built webs that retained energy in a narrow range (350-600 Hz) from the long range.

The difference between city and rural spiders only emerged when the spiders were blasted with loud white noise, suggesting that spiders built their webs differently to manage ambient noise. However, it is very difficult to prove whether they do so consciously.

That said, the new study naturally raised questions about what its findings mean for the animal communities living in rapidly urbanising spaces around the world. "We need a lot more studies across animals before we can really begin to generalise," Ms. Pessman said. "Cities are a very difficult place for animals to live and there are not many animals that have accomplished such a feat of being able to do so well in cities."

The difference between city and rural spiders only emerged when the spiders were blasted with loud white noise, suggesting that spiders built webs differently to manage ambient noise

Shannon Olsson, a researcher in urban ecology, chemical ecology, and sustainability, said, "This [study] suggests that chronic exposure to urban environments impacts the way spiders build their webs and respond to environmental cues."

Ms. Olsson, who wasn't involved in the study, also pointed out that whether these changes are indeed an adaptation to urban noise and whether these changes actually affect prey capture remain to be tested. As she summed it up: "Regardless, that urbanisation impacts how spiders construct their home and source of food is an important result."

Similar needs for spiders, humans

India's urban centres are notorious for their noise pollution. While the government has defined upper limits to curb noise pollution, cities regularly make the news for exceeding them. "Noise pollution is a huge issue in Indian cities," Olsson said. "Generally, people compensate with soundproof walls and sound barriers. However, increasingly, researchers are showing the impacts of noise on our wildlife and calling for action." How much of a concern is noise pollution compared to, say, carbon pollution?

"Globally, we have what is known as 'carbon tunnel vision'," Ms. Olsson, who is also the founder and global director of the 'echo network', an international programme connecting 2,500 members across 46 countries that works on global sustainability challenges. "Yet other stressors such as air, light, and noise pollution arguably have greater immediate impacts on the plants and animals we rely on for survival."

In India and worldwide, there is a growing need to study and communicate the diverse consequences of human beings on wildlife. In the mythology of the Cherokee, an indigenous North American people, the spider web is a metaphor for the connections among all living beings, highlighting all of nature as a deeply interconnected community.

As Ms. Olsson added, "These funnel web spiders are important pest controllers for a habitat, but they need lots of food to eat, and clean and safe places to build their homes. Their needs are not too different from us, in the end."

(Vrinda Ravi Kumar is an evolutionary biologist based in the Czech Republic. vrindaravikumar42@gmail.com)

Assorted brands of honey are seen at a supermarket in Vienna, Austria, on April 3. AFP

Austria trials DNA testing to uncover honey fraud

Agence France-Presse

At a laboratory in Austria's mountainous Tyrol province, scientists are DNA testing about 100 honey samples a month to learn about their composition – and in some cases to determine whether they have been adulterated.

With fake honey flooding markets, and only a few European laboratories running such analysis, the small Austrian company Sinsoma began offering the tests two years ago.

"It is really something new for the honey market," said Corinna Wallinger, head of sales at Sinsoma. It is essential that technology "always moves forward – just as the counterfeiters" do, she added.

Honey cannot have ingredients such as water or inexpensive sugar syrups – which might boost its volume – added to it, according to EU legislation. But tests have shown that is common practice.

Honey cannot have ingredients such as water or inexpensive sugar syrups – which might boost its volume – added to it, according to EU legislation

Between 2021 and 2022, 46% of the honey tested under an EU investigation as it entered the bloc was flagged as potentially adulterated, up from 14% in the 2015-17 period. Of the suspicious consignments, 74% were of Chinese origin.

Beekeepers' livelihoods threatened

Seeking to better detect fraud, Austria's health and food safety agency (AGES) used DNA testing for the first time this year and is still evaluating the results.

European supermarket chain SPAR also ordered DNA tests for its honey.

The chain put its honeys – taken off the shelves late last year in Austria for testing – back after they passed DNA tests and another analysis.

Besides cheating consumers, fake honey threatens the livelihood of beekeepers, who struggle to compete with the far lower prices of imported honey – often blended from various countries – and are demanding more effective testing.

"We don't have a chance at all," said Matthias Kopetzky, owner of the Wiener Bezirksimkerei, which takes care of up to 350 hives in Vienna.

While the European Union is the world's top honey producer after China, it is also the second-biggest importer after the United States. Most of the bloc's honey imports come from Ukraine, China and Argentina, according to EU data.

An EU directive adopted last year stipulates that honey labels from mid-2026 must detail the countries of origin, as opposed to merely referencing a "blend of EU and non-EU honeys".

Beekeepers like Mr. Kopetzky hope the new rule will raise consumer awareness.

Brussels also set up a group of experts, with a mandate until 2028, to "harmonise methods to detect adulteration in honey and trace the product back to the harvesting producer or importer".

Austria's Sinsoma has specialised in DNA testing.

"Honey is full of DNA traces, of information from the environment where bees collected the nectar. Every honey has a unique DNA profile," Ms. Wallinger said. When a honey sample lacks a wide range of DNA traces or for example contains a high proportion of DNA traces from rice or corn – which bees do not frequent – this indicates a honey is not genuine, she added.

Experts warn the DNA method can detect certain types of fraud but not all.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Don't go to these places for summer break

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Mount ____, named for a famous Nordic god, in Canada features the world's largest vertical drop. While it's 1.6 km tall, it features a cliff at 1.2 km that juts out from the base by about 5 degrees, making it a destination for extreme climbers. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The Shina people of Pakistan call this mountain the 'king of mountains'. The mountain has three faces: Diamir, Rakhiot, and Rupal. Of them, Rakhiot has one of the world's steepest mountain slopes while Rupal is the world's highest mountain face. Name the mountain.

QUESTION 3

The name of this place in Greece has the same root as the English word 'meteor'. It features towering columns of rock up to 400 metres high. Geologists don't exactly know how they took shape. Name the place.

QUESTION 4

The _____ _____ is Africa's third lowest-lying area because three tectonic plates are moving away from each other here, including those bearing Africa and Asia. Many palaeontologists believe the earth's first humans evolved here. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

Places where the coldest air temperature has been recorded on the earth are called the _____ of _____. The southern one is in Russia's Vostok station in Antarctica, which recorded -89.2 degrees C in 1983. As it happens, the northern one is also in Russia, in a town called Oymyakon. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to April 24 quiz:

1. Condition where spacetime breaks down catastrophically – **Ans: Gravitational singularity**
2. Ultra-dense object first observed in 1967 – **Ans: Neutron star**
3. Full-form of QGP – **Ans: Quark-gluon plasma**
4. Fleeting energy changes at points in empty space – **Ans: Vacuum fluctuation**
5. Theoretical spacetime region that energy can only leave from – **Ans: White hole**

Visual: Peter Higgs

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Joe V.R. | Arun Kumar Dash | Shubham Sadashiv

Visual: The red dot here shows the location of the world's third-deepest trench, off the Philippines. It shares its name with a ship that bombed Chennai (then Madras) during the First World War. Name it. HELLERICK (CC BY-SA)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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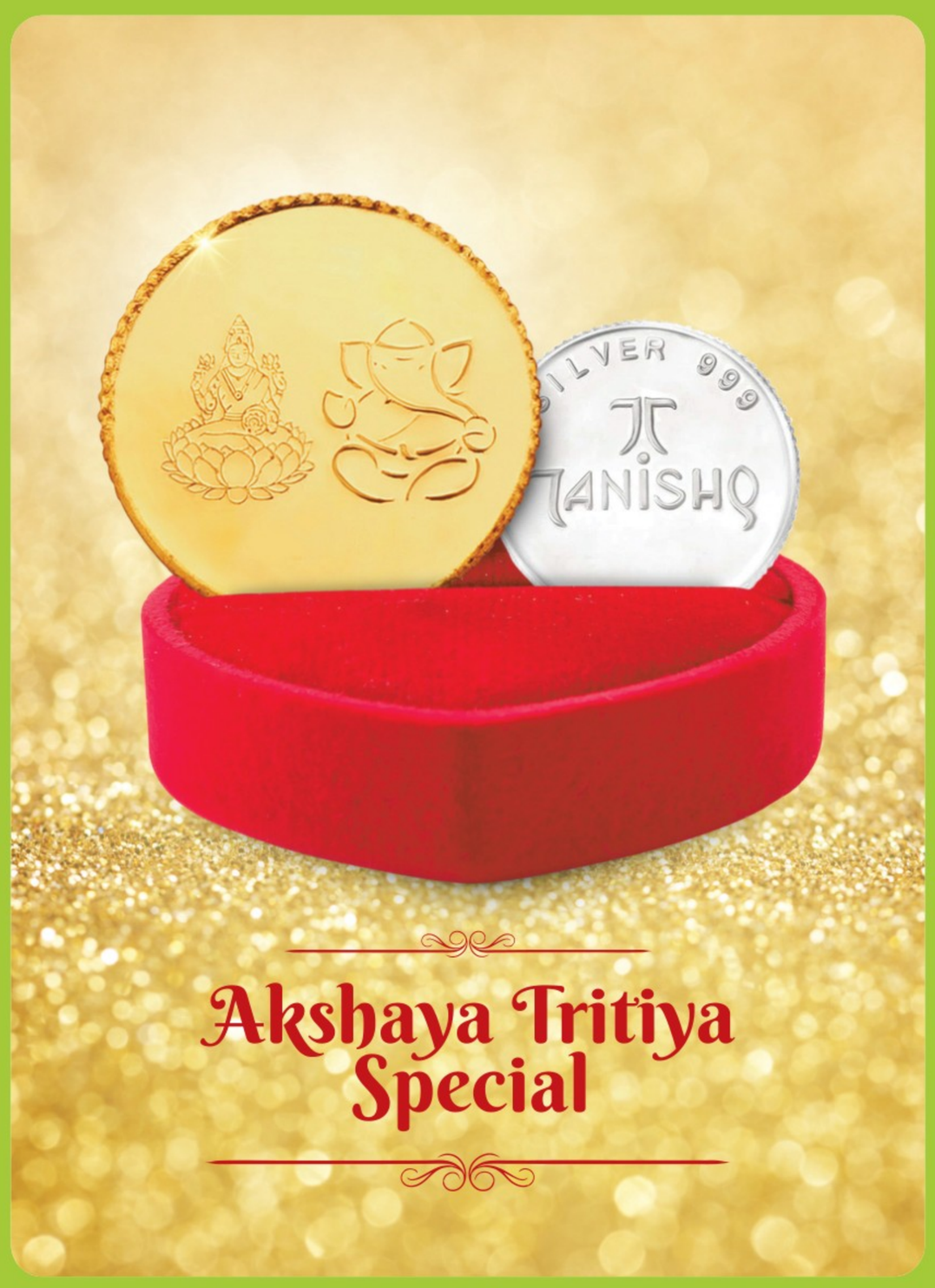

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1,815 students admitted to colleges last year, including three from MBBS, wrote CET again this year

KEA takes steps to monitor these candidates in the wake of the alleged engineering seat blocking scam last year

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A total of 1,815 students, including three MBBS students, who got medical, dental, engineering and other professional courses seats in NEET-2024 and CET-2024 counselling last year and were admitted to colleges, have written the CET again this year seeking seats in various courses.

Expressing surprise, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has taken steps to monitor these candidates in the wake of the alleged engineering seat blocking scam last year.

CET-2025, which is the gateway for admission to engineering and other professional courses, was held recently and the results will be out in a few days. NEET-2025 will be held across the country on May 4 for admission to medical and dental courses.

Of the 1,815 candidates, three had secured medical seats last year, 100 candidates secured dental seats,

There is no limit for candidates on the number of attempts to write the CET. FILE PHOTO

191 AYUSH seat, 9 B.V.Sc (Veterinary Science) seats, 766 Engineering, 105 Farm Science, 511 Nursing, 109 Pharmacy and 21 Yoga and Naturopathy seats.

"The online applications of these candidates have been checked several times and there are no fake candidates. Some candidates were called and questioned about this. A student who has secured a government quota seat in a prestigious private medical college said she is finding it difficult to study a medical course and she wants to join engineering course. Another candidate said that he is finding it difficult to study MBBS and is writing the CET to get a veterinary seat," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of KEA.

What the rule says

There is no limit for candidates on the number of attempts to write the CET. A candidate who has passed the II PU in the Science stream can write the CET as many times as they want.

As per the KEA rules, if a candidate has previously secured a seat in any professional course and has been admitted in a college, and then re-writes the CET next year, such candidates will not be given the seat in the course they had secured earlier. Instead, they will have to get seats in other courses only.

"There is no problem with candidates appearing for the CET for the second time. There is huge demand for medical courses and candidates are desperate for seats. However, the fact that even those who got medical and dental seats appeared for the CET the second time has raised some questions. It will be checked whether these candidates get seats allotted in their names and then get admitted to the college or not. Until the completion of CET and NEET counselling, all these candidates will be kept under surveillance. If they get a seat but do not get admitted to the college, it will be considered as seat blocking and legal action will be taken against such candidates," Mr. Prasanna warned.

Seat allotment

Course	Students allotted seats in 2024
Medical	3
B.V.Sc	9
Yoga and Naturopathy	21
Dental	100
Farm Science	105
Pharmacy	109
AYUSH	191
Nursing	511
Engineering	766
Total	**1,815**

Deprived of seats

Candidates trying for seats in other courses by writing the CET for the second time will have to discontinue the course in which they got seats last time. Due to this, these seats will remain vacant again. Therefore, about 1,815 eligible candidates from last year will be deprived of seats in other courses, including medical, officials pointed out.

Since there is lateral entry for the 3rd semester (2nd year) only for engineering courses, the seats of these courses can be filled. However, there is no lateral entry for medical, dental, nursing, B.V.Sc and other allied health science courses.

SIT files supplementary chargesheet against Munirathna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigation Team probing BJP MLA Munirathna's case has filed supplementary chargesheets in two cases before the Special Court. The RR Nagar MLA has been accused of hurling casteist abuses, rape, voyeurism and attempting to spread dangerous disease.

The SIT chargesheet, apart from Muniratna, has also charged Ayyanna Reddy, inspector from the Hebbagodi station, and Munirathna 's two associates, P. Srinivas and Sudhakar, detailing their roles. The SIT was formed in September 2024 after the allegations against the MLA were made public by the victims.

Sources said that the chargesheet contains reports, statements and other evidence.

RBM helps underprivileged access benefits from govt. schemes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an effort to facilitate those eligible to claim benefits from government schemes, Rotary Bangalore Midtown (RBM) took up an initiative titled 'Windows of Opportunity', that aimed to help 50,000 underprivileged individuals access vital government welfare schemes. Thousands from the city have benefited and so far over ₹4.8 crore has been directly transferred to their accounts from various government schemes, aided by the campaign launched in October 2024.

Palani Loganathan, president, Rotary Bangalore Midtown, told *The Hindu* that so far RBM has registered 27,000 beneficiaries and over ₹4 crore has been transferred directly to the bank accounts under various government schemes.

Mr. Loganathan said despite thousands of government schemes in place, lack of education and awareness continue to keep the poorest from claiming their rightful benefits.

To address this, RBM has established helpdesks at locations frequented by the underserved, such as government hospitals and primary health centers. A helpdesk is already operational at Vani Vilas Hospital, with expansion plans under way for St. John's Medical College Hospital, Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, at Bommasandra, Anekal, and other areas with high populations of construction and industry workers. These helpdesks are manned by representatives of two private firms hired by RBM. Each beneficiary's registration for relevant welfare schemes costs ₹100 and this is borne by the RBM.

RBM has committed ₹50 lakh for the initiative. Targeted schemes include Ayushman Bharat, E-Shram Card, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, PM SVANidhi, widow pension, and other pension schemes apart from numerous State government schemes. "The project has received a good response from both vulnerable communities and donors. We aim to create a social return on investment exceeding ₹50 crore by helping people access the benefits they deserve," Mr. Loganathan said.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of climbers permitted to scale Mount Everest

402 According to Nepal's Department of Tourism, climbers from 53 countries, including 74 women, were granted permission to scale Mount Everest. This year, 41 expeditions have been approved. Last year, 414 climbers were granted permits. PTI

Cumulative military expenditure of all countries in 2024

2.7 in $ trillion. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, global military expenditure marked a 9.4% increase from 2023, and had the steepest year-on-year rise since the Cold War. Military spending rose across all regions, particularly in Europe and West Asia. PTI

Number of Rafale fighter jets to be purchased by India

26 India signed a deal with France to purchase Rafale fighter aircraft worth ₹0.63 lakh crore for its navy. This purchase was approved earlier this month by India's security cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The deal is part of India's efforts to modernise its military. REUTERS

Number of people killed in the Iran port explosion on Monday

46 According to state television, the massive explosion at the Shahid Rajaei port near Bandar Abbas has resulted in over 1,000 people injured. A fire continues to burn at the site two days after the blast on April 26, which coincided with Iran's nuclear talks with the U.S. AP

Youth identified for de-radicalisation programme

100 Over 100 youth leaning towards banned international terror organisations have been identified by the State police and subjected to a de-radicalisation programme, the Tamil Nadu government said. PTI

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What will determine the Papal Conclave?

What is the legacy left behind by Pope Francis and how has it affected the geographical distribution of the College of Cardinals? Why is the 'Fiducia Supplicans' controversial, especially for cardinals from the Global South? How much of a majority does the Conclave need to elect the next Pope?

EXPLAINER

Franciszek Snarski

The story so far:

Following the death of Pope Francis on April 21, the Catholic Church entered into the *sede vacante* (the time for which the papal seat is empty). This period culminates in the Papal Conclave, the ancient ritual to elect the next Pope. While deeply spiritual, the Conclave is also a political process – a complex interplay shaped by rules, personalities, historical precedents, and the significant, sometimes controversial, legacy of the previous pontificate.

How does the Conclave work?

The Universi Dominici Gregis (UDG), an apostolic constitution, governs the process. It dictates strict procedures, and demands secrecy and complete isolation within the Vatican City. This enforced secrecy aims to minimise external influence. However, it simultaneously creates a unique internal political environment. Here, influence hinges on pre-existing relationships, sharp negotiation, and the persuasive efforts of respected figures – the 'great electors' – working behind the scenes to build alliances and steer votes. Sequestered, cardinal electors are incentivised to make their choice based on their own conscience, free from external lobbying. Also significant is the fact that a successful candidate requires a a two-thirds majority. This necessitates consensus-building, favours compromise and candidates acceptable across different blocs, preventing any narrow faction from dominating.

Only cardinals under 80 years, at the time of the Pope's death or resignation, have voting rights. However, cardinals over the age-limit can still participate in pre-Conclave general congregations, leveraging their experience and clout, potentially swaying less experienced cardinals before voting even begins.

The current electorate was significantly shaped by Pope Francis; he appointed approximately 80% (around 108 of the 135 expected attendees) of the voting cardinals. He frequently exceeded the nominal 120-elector limit set by Paul VI – a clear exercise of papal prerogative, allowing a Pope to rapidly influence the body choosing his successor.

What are the major political divisions among electors?

Significant ideological differences mark the College of Cardinals, broadly reflecting the intense debate over Pope Francis's legacy and the Church's future path. Broadly there are two major camps – reformist and conservative. The reformist/progressive faction supports Pope Francis's vision. They emphasise pastoral theology (more practical application) over rigid doctrine, encourage synodality (a more consultative Church), prioritise social justice – poverty, migration, climate change – and favour greater inclusion of women and other marginalised groups such as LGBTQ+ Catholics.

Conversely, the conservative/traditionalist faction has concerns about the perceived doctrinal ambiguity and the departure from tradition during Pope Francis's pontificate. This faction stresses the need for upholding liturgical tradition (including the restricted pre-Vatican II Latin Mass), clear doctrinal teaching, and seeks a reaffirmation of established moral norms. Some desire a distinct "course correction".

However, a broad compartmentalisation misses nuance. Such a generalisation is complicated by numerous cardinals, especially appointees from the Global South, who defy easy categorisation. While many of these cardinals hold socially conservative views (evident in the strong resistance by African bishops to *Fiducia Supplicans*, the document allowing blessings for same-sex couples), they also resonate deeply with Pope Francis's focus on social justice, poverty, environmentalism, and anti-colonialism. This complex mix makes their voting patterns less predictable. It positions them as a crucial potential 'swing' bloc, absolutely necessary for building a two-thirds majority.

How has the geographical balance of power shifted?

Pope Francis deliberately reshaped the College of Cardinals to make it less European and more reflective of the Church's actual global distribution. He frequently bypassed traditional European power centres and appointed cardinals from the "peripheries" – nations which were never before represented. The result has been profound. Europeans now constitute less than half (approx. 39.3%) of cardinal electors – a first in centuries, dropping significantly from around 51-52% in 2013. While still the largest single regional bloc, with Italy retaining the most electors, Europe's historical dominance has clearly diminished.

Conversely, other regions have grown: Asia-Pacific accounts for about 17%, Latin America 15.6%, and Africa 13.3%. This globalised composition introduces new political dynamics. Cardinals from the Global South bring perspectives deeply shaped by poverty, migration, interreligious dialogue (especially with Islam), environmental challenges, and the realities of Church growth. Their voices could shift discussions away from solely European concerns. This structural shift increases the plausibility of a non-European Pope and demands cross-regional coalition-building to reach the two-thirds threshold. Latin America, however, remains somewhat underrepresented relative to its large share of the global Catholic population.

What issues will likely dominate the discussions?

The cardinals' deliberations will inevitably grapple with several pressing issues revealing underlying political and theological tensions. Synodality, perhaps Pope Francis's defining project, which envisions a Church emphasising listening, dialogue, and shared responsibility, faces a highly contested future. Supporters see it as an essential renewal; critics fear it undermines authority or dilutes doctrine. A candidate's stance here will be a major indicator.

Navigating contentious social and moral questions also remains a critical challenge. Pope Francis fostered a more pastoral tone regarding LGBTQ+ Catholics, culminating in the controversial *Fiducia Supplicans*, which faced strong resistance. Balancing pastoral outreach with traditional doctrine is a tightrope the next Pope must walk.

The role of women is another key issue. Despite Pope Francis appointing more women to leadership and allowing them Synod votes, calls for greater inclusion persist, including the unresolved question of women deacons. Sensitive topics like clerical celibacy and bioethics also loom. Further, the global clergy abuse crisis continues its devastating impact on the Church's credibility. Despite reforms like *Vos Estis Lux Mundi* (norms established by Pope Francis to tackle sexual abuse), criticisms regarding inconsistent enforcement and accountability linger. Cardinals will likely scrutinise candidates' commitment to transparency, bishop accountability, and survivor support – a fundamental test of leadership.

Finally, the papacy's role in geopolitics and internal reform is crucial. The next Pope must navigate conflicts (Ukraine, Gaza), global tensions (U.S.-China), and provide moral leadership on climate change and migration. Diplomatic skill is essential, as is handling sensitive agreements like the controversial Vatican-China deal (allowing the Chinese Communist Party to have a say in bishop appointments, and being criticised for compromising religious freedom). Internally, ensuring the continuation of financial reform in the Vatican, especially after the London property scandal trial, and demonstrating commitment to transparency remain key concerns.

Why is the outcome considered unpredictable?

Vatican observers have highlighted that this Conclave will be of an uncertain nature.

As strict secrecy prevents any external observation of the shifting dynamics and intense alliance-building within the Sistine Chapel, one won't be able to call the result until the white smoke above the Vatican dispels all doubts. The two-thirds majority rule necessitates broad consensus, often pushing cardinals beyond initial preferences, towards candidates capable of uniting disparate factions. Also, the current college's diverse composition, with many electors unfamiliar with one another due to Pope Francis's appointments from the peripheries, adds another layer of unpredictability.

The famous saying, "He who enters the Conclave as Pope, leaves it as a cardinal" suggests that there are no front-runners for Saint Peter's throne. Ultimately, the choice rests on political manoeuvring, individual discernment, and, for believers, the subtle guidance of the Holy Spirit behind the Conclave's locked doors.

Franciszek Snarski is interning with The Hindu.

Cardinal electors from around the world

Pope Francis reshaped the College of Cardinals to make it less European and more reflective of the Church's actual global distribution. He bypassed traditional European power centres and appointed cardinals from the 'peripheries' — nations which were never before represented

Continent	No. of electors	% of electors	Approx. change since 2013 (in %)	Key countries (electors)
Europe	53	~39.3%	Down from ~51-52%	Italy (17), Spain (5), France (5), Poland (4), Portugal (4)
Asia-Pacific	23	~17.0%	Up from ~9-10%	India (4), The Philippines (2), Japan (2), S. Korea (1), etc.
Latin America and Caribbean	21	~15.6%	Stable/Slight ↓ from ~16-17%	Brazil (7), Argentina (4), Colombia (1), Chile (1), Peru (1)
Africa	18	~13.3%	Up from ~8-9%	Nigeria (1), DRC (1), Ghana (1), Ivory Coast (2), Tanzania (1)
North America	16	~11.9%	Down from ~12%	U.S. (10), Canada (4), Mexico (2)
Oceania	4	~3.0%	Stable/Slight ↑	Australia (1), New Zealand (1), Papua New Guinea (1), Tonga (1)
Total	135	100%		

Source:press.vatican.va

"I call as my witness Christ the Lord who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected"
- Oath declared by cardinals as they cast their vote during the Conclave

Uncertain future: Cardinals departing from a College of Cardinals meeting, where the May 7 Conclave date to elect Pope Francis' successor was determined, in Rome, Italy on April 28. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The Universi Dominici Gregis (UDG), an apostolic constitution, governs the Conclave. It dictates strict procedures, and demands secrecy and complete isolation within the Vatican City. This enforced secrecy aims to minimise external influence.
- Significant ideological differences mark the College of Cardinals, broadly reflecting the intense debate over Pope Francis's legacy and the Church's future path. Broadly there are two major camps — reformist and conservative.
- Vatican observers have highlighted that this Conclave will be of an uncertain nature.

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Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 29		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	07:01	SET 20:22
WEDNESDAY, APR. 30		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:34
RISE	08:01	SET 21:30
THURSDAY, MAY. 01		
RISE	05:59	SET 18:35
RISE	09:04	SET 22:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	34	24

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds at few places.

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THE HINDU
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Microgravity research experiments of IISc, UASD shortlisted for ISS

ISRO says microgravity research, with potential applications in human health, physical and life sciences, offers significant opportunities to the national scientific community

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted seven microgravity research experiments, which are expected to be conducted on board the International Space Station (ISS) during the upcoming Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4). The upcoming Ax-4 mission, with Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, is the fourth private astronaut mission to the ISS. The mission is likely to be launched in May.

According to ISRO, it has shortlisted seven microgravity research experiments proposed by Indian Principal Investigators (PIs) from various national R&D laboratories and academic institutions for implementation on the ISS.

Of these R&D laboratories and academic institutions, three – Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Institute of Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), and University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad – are based in Karnataka.

The International Space Station. The experiments will be conducted during the upcoming Axiom-4 mission. REUTERS

The shortlisted seven microgravity research experiments are: Impact of Microgravity Radiation in ISS on Edible Microalgae by International Centre for Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology (ICGEB) and National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Sprouting Salad Seeds in Space; Comparative growth and proteomics responses of cyanobacteria on urea and nitrate in microgravity by ICGEB; Relevance to Crew Nutrition by University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad; Survival, revival, reproduction, and transcriptome of the eutardigrade Paramacrobiotus sp. BLR strain in space by IISc; Analyzing Human Interaction with Electronic Displays in Microgravity by IISc; Effect of metabolic supplements on muscle regeneration under microgravity by Institute of Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem); and Impact of Microgravity on Growth and Yield Parameters in Food Crop Seeds by Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Dept. of Space & College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Kerala Agricultural University.

According to ISRO, the field of microgravity research, with potential applications in diverse areas such as human health, physical and life sciences, material research, novel pharmaceutical development and biotechnology, offers significant opportunities to the national scientific community. These experiments will utilise available research facilities on board ISS.

The experience gained through this effort in implementation of these experiments is expected to nurture a microgravity research ecosystem in India resulting in the induction of advanced microgravity experiments in various disciplines in the Indian space programme.

Study identifies DNA methylation markers for early detection of postpartum depressive symptoms

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Perinatal depression, which includes both prenatal (during pregnancy) and postpartum (after childbirth) depression, affects a substantial proportion of women and can have long-lasting effects on both mother and child. GETTY IMAGES

A study by researchers from NIMHANS has identified a panel of novel DNA methylation makers that can help predict the risk of postpartum depressive symptoms in early stages of pregnancy. The study was published in the *Journal of Affective Disorders* on April 24.

Perinatal depression, which includes both prenatal (during pregnancy) and postpartum (after childbirth) depression, affects a substantial proportion of women and can have long-lasting effects on both mother and child. It often manifests as persistent sadness, low energy, anxiety, and disrupted sleep and appetite patterns.

The study, led by Kuppan Gokulakrishnan, Associate Professor of Neurochemistry at NIMHANS, is a collaborative effort with researchers from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Seethapathy Clinic & Hospital in Chennai, and the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. The team focused on epigenetic changes, specifically DNA methylation (a biological process by which methyl groups are added to the DNA molecule - the levels of which help predict diseases) as potential early indicators of depressive symptoms. This study was funded by the DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance.

Blood biomarkers

Dr. Gokulakrishnan said there are currently no blood-based biomarkers available to identify postpartum depressive symptoms at an early stage of pregnancy. "Therefore, our discovery allows for earlier intervention, which can help reduce the harmful effects of depression. Our findings open up the possibility of a simple blood test during early pregnancy that could help identify women at risk, allowing for timely intervention and support," he said.

Early detection could lead to personalised, preventive strategies in maternal mental health care and reduce the long-term emotional and developmental toll on both mothers and children, he said.

The study involved 201 pregnant women with no prior history of depressive disorders, recruited from the STratification of Risk of Diabetes in Early Pregnancy (STRiDE) study. "Participants were screened for antenatal depressive symptoms, and blood samples were analysed using the advanced Infinium Methylation EPIC array. This revealed 591 methylation markers significantly associated with antenatal depressive symptoms. From this data, a panel of seven methylation markers was identified using machine learning as a robust biomarker panel capable of distinguishing depressed women from controls with high sensitivity and specificity," the author explained.

Impressive accuracy

"Remarkably, this same panel was also able to predict postpartum depressive symptoms with impressive accuracy. The predictive power increased further when combined with patient-reported data. This is a significant leap forward in our understanding of the biological underpinnings of perinatal depression," said Dr. Gokulakrishnan.

Pointing out that further studies with larger and more diverse samples are warranted to improve the robustness of the model, he said, "Additional analysis of the associated methylation patterns pointed to biological pathways such as inositol phosphate metabolism, notch, and calcium signalling pathways already known to play roles in mood regulation."

Chinnasamy Thirumoorthy, who is one of the authors of the study, said the team is currently working on validating the findings in other Indian cohorts. "Our goal is to develop a point-of-care diagnostic tool based on these epigenetic biomarkers," he said.

White-topping delay: Two contractors fined ₹5 lakh each

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP has imposed fines totaling ₹10 lakh on two contractors for failing to commence white-topping works in the city.

In the South Zone, M/s JMC Constructions was penalised ₹5 lakh for not initiating white-topping work on West of Chord Road and Hosakerehalli Main Road within the Vijayanagar Assembly constituency. Their inaction has caused inconvenience to the public, and the fine has been levied under Clauses 41(1) and 41(2) of the contract agreement.

Similarly, in the West Zone, M/s Ocean Constructions was fined ₹5 lakh for the slow execution of white-topping work on Vyali Kaval Road. Public inconvenience and sluggish progress prompted authorities to impose the fine under the same contract clauses.

The BBMP, which has undertaken large-scale white-topping works across the city, is enforcing strict action against delays.

Create geospatial action plan: KSCST tells State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) has called upon the State government to create a Geospatial Action Plan for better utilisation of the Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information System (GIS).

Participating in a State-level GIS workshop on Geospatial Applications for District Level Planning on Monday, U.T. Vijay, Executive Secretary, KSCST, called on the government to create a Geospatial Action Plan.

Praveen Ramamurthy, Secretary, KSCST, said that as everything is interdisciplinary, there should be better collaboration between departments for better implementation of government schemes. "Everything is interdisciplinary now, departments can no longer function individually. Collaboration is a must. GIS requires departments to collaborate with each other," he said.

In her inaugural address Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, said that GIS is one of the best technologies to have been developed, however maximum use of it has not been made.

She gave examples of how she employed the mapping technology for efficient water distribution and evaluating roadworks while she was Deputy Commissioner.

Seven held for stealing mobile consignment worth ₹3 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Peresandra police of Chickballapur arrested a gang of seven for allegedly stealing a consignment of brand new mobile phones worth ₹3 crore they were supposed to deliver from Noida to Bengaluru.

The accused, who were drivers for a private transport company, were on the way to Bengaluru with the consignment of 257 boxes carrying a total of 5,140 of phones to be delivered to different shops across the city. On the way, they allegedly abandoned the truck near a dhaba and escaped with the phones.

Based on the complaint, a police team tracked down the accused identified as Rahul, Sakrulla, Imran, Mustafa, Yousuf, Abhijit Paul, Anoop Roy from Haryana, Rajasthan and West Bengal and recovered 57 mobile phones from them.

The accused had sold the other phones in other states. These have been blocked with the help of the Department of Telecommunication.

Over 100 bike-taxi drivers urge Transport Minister to reconsider ban

The bike taxi drivers met Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday, to share concerns on the bike taxi ban in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over 100 bike taxi drivers, including drivers from the Namma Bike Taxi Association and others affiliated with Rapido, Uber, and Ola, met Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Monday to share their concerns on the bike taxi ban.

In a petition addressed to the Minister on behalf of 1 lakh bike taxi drivers across Bengaluru, the drivers urged protection of their livelihoods amidst growing regulatory uncertainty.

The drivers who met the Minister claimed that they faced daily harassment, fines, and legal confusion even as they provided affordable, last-mile connectivity to lakhs of commuters. They called on the government to formally recognize bike taxis as a legal mode of transport and implement a structured policy framework.

"We are not criminals – we are workers trying to earn a living with dignity," said Ramesh K., a bike taxi driver and member of the association. "Every day we live in fear. If bike taxis are legal in Delhi and Maharashtra, why are we being denied the right to work here in Karnataka?"

The petition emphasised that many drivers are students, single parents, or former salaried workers who had turned to bike taxis after losing jobs during the pandemic. They stressed that without clear regulation, thousands could lose their sole source of income, putting their survival in the city at risk.

BIS to host 'Manak Manthan' on plywood standards today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), will conduct a brainstorming session titled *Manak Manthan* on Tuesday. The event will discuss Amendment No. 1 to the IS 303:2024 standard, which governs plywood for general purposes.

The session will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at BIS Conference Room, opposite Jalahalli Metro Station in Peenya Industrial Area.

BCU invites applications for UG courses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University (BCU) has announced the commencement of admissions for its UG courses for 2025-2026. These will be offered at the Jnana Jyothi campus, Central College.

BCU has provided details on its official website.

For ease of application, BCU has set up an online registration portal.

Government of Jharkhand
Directorate of Food & Consumer Affairs
3rd Floor, JSFC Bhawan, Kadru, Jharkhand Ranchi -834002

Letter No - 604 Date- 28-04-2025

Corrigendum Notice - 02

Reference to Tender Ref. No.-Kha.Up.Ni.-24(Chi.Vi.Yo.)-04/2024-Re-448 Dated:-24/03/2025, PR No. 349157 and PR No. 350579 for Supply of Free Flow White Crystal Sugar (Grade-S-30/M-30) (As Per FSSAI Norms) for 4th Quarter (January 2025 to March 2025) of Financial Year 2024-25 through reverse e-auction platform of NCDEX e Markets Limited.
Bid End Date/Time Amended as follows :-

Description	As per RFP/ Corrigendum	Amended As
Bidding Document Cost Date :	24-04-2025	02-05-2025
Tender Document Sales End Date :	24-04-2025	02-05-2025
Bid Submission Closing Date :	24-04-2025	02-05-2025

However, the prospective bidder are advised to regularly keep visiting and checking the website http://jharkhand.gov.in/food & https://www.neml.in for any further forthcoming information/ notice(s) / developments / amendment(s) / Clarification(s) regarding the subject Tender. Rest all the Terms and Conditions of the RFP and subsequent amendment remains unchanged.

Sd/-
PR 351243 Directorate of Food and Consumer Affairs (25-26)_D (Dilip Tirkey) Director

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC), CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058.

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE E-TENDER

1. On behalf of President of India, sealed **item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-28094541, 4186)

1	Name of Work	**Replacement of Smoke detection System of D32 Mtr. Old 18 Mtr. BL-4 facilities and Main Gate at IDSN Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**	**Refurbishment of Elelctrical System for the proposed TERRACOM infrastructure at the New TELEMEDICINE Room at SATCOM building and SITC of UDB for INMCC facility at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru**	**Vertical Extension to CISF Barrack for SSG Personal at DOS Housing Colony, Jalahalli, Bengaluru- Electrical Works.**
2	E-tenders Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender -13/ 2025-2026 Dated: 28.04.2025**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender -14/2025-2026 Dated: 28.04.2025**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/CON/E-Tender -18/2025-2026 Dated: 28.04.2025**
3	Estimated cost put to tender	**Rs. 22.53 Lakhs**	**Rs. 20.67 Lakhs**	**Rs.23.22 Lakhs**
4	Tender Document details	**E-Tenders**	**E-Tenders**	**E-Tenders**
5	Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**Three (03) Months**		**Twelve (12) Months**
6	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 16.00 hrs. on 29.04.2025 to14.05.2025 till 16.00 hrs.		
7	Bid clarifications	From 11.00 hrs. on 30.04.2025 to 15.05.2025 till 16.00 hrs		
8	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	16.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs		
9	Last date & time of receipt of tenders	17.05.2025 up to 16.00 hrs		
10	Due date and time of opening of tenders	19.05.2025 after 11.00 hrs		
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 45,060.00**	**Rs. 41.340.00**	**Rs. 46,440.00**

2. Interested Tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender** (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website: **www.isro.gov.in.** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head,CMG

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2025-26/03
Dated : 21.04.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	"(1) OHE modification for construction of 12m Foot Over Bridge by Gati Shakti Unit/ Mysuru at Ranibennur. (2) OHE modification for construction of 12m Foot Over Bridge by Gati Shakti Unit/Mysuru at Chikamagaluru" Allocation : 20-53-76-03	Rs. 32,15,617.89/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 13.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TR Mysuru
PUB/68/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 04 MYS 2025
dated: 23.04.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	4 CORE X 240 SQMM PVC INSULATED LTUG CABLE WITH ALUMINUM CONDUCTOR. Tender no. L9255161A	Rs. 1,06,78,500.00

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 10.30 hrs on 15.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Mysuru
PUB/66/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No. 05-SNT-MYS-2025 Dated 19.04.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender (IREPS) for the following work.

SN	Name of work	Approx.Value
1	Provision of Intermediate Block Stop Signal (IBSS) between Haveri and Byadgi Station in Karajgi-Harihar section on both UP and Down direction.	Rs. 4,03,93,828.64/-
2	Provision of New Intermediate Block Stop Signal (IBSS) between Chalgeri and Ranibennur station in Karajgi-Harihar section on Both Up and Down Direction.	Rs. 4,13,56,542.72/-
3	Provision of New Intermediate Block Stop signal (IBSS) between Shivani - Ajjampura and Ballakere - Devanur station in Chikjajur-Sampige Road section on both UP and Down direction	Rs. 7,92,86,551.57/-

Last date for Submission of bids : **Upto 11.00 hrs on 13.05.2025**
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Mysuru
PUB/58/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

KEYWORD

Steady on: Women carry pots filled with water amid a water crisis in the Duparwadi and Chindhyachiwadi villages of Dhakne Gram Panchayat of Shahapur, in Thane on April 27. ANI

Role in a risk society: how women bear a disproportionate burden

Coined by Ulrich Beck in his book 'Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity', the term 'risk society' describes a shift from an industrial society to one increasingly shaped by uncertainty and hazards created by technological and environmental developments

Rebecca Rose Varghese

In 1986, the world was shaken by the catastrophic Chernobyl nuclear accident, which released massive amounts of radioactive material into the environment, affecting millions of people and the land for decades. The Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan that took place in 2011 mirrored this tragedy, highlighting the dangers of nuclear energy in densely populated areas. These incidents exposed how the rapid pace of modernisation can amplify risks, with devastating consequences for human life and long-term environmental safety.

Another disaster is the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, which triggered global lockdowns, overwhelmed healthcare systems, and disrupted economies. Governments, despite efforts, struggled to respond as the global economy collapsed and millions of lives were upended. The pandemic exposed the deep vulnerabilities of an interconnected world, with its aftermath still rippling through societies. Financial instability deepened existing inequalities, showing how modern crises can amplify the risks built into the structures of global life.

Ever wondered why such unpredictable events keep occurring and why there seems to be no clear way to control them? Why, despite technological advancements and promises of progress, we find ourselves continually facing new, unforeseen risks? This is precisely what the concept of risk society explains.

The concept

Coined by Ulrich Beck in his book *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, the term "risk society" describes a shift from an industrial society to one increasingly shaped by uncertainty and hazards created by technological and environmental developments. In such a society, the focus moves from the distribution of wealth to the prevention and management of risks, including health crises, pollution, and environmental degradation, that arise from modernisation itself.

Beck's theory draws from the concept of "reflexive modernisation," the idea that modern societies must constantly reflect on and adapt to the problems they have created. That is, the successes of industrialisation, such as nuclear energy and fossil fuel use, generated new, often unforeseen risks. Over time, these risks began to overshadow the benefits of progress, proponents of the theory argue, with disasters like nuclear explosions, pandemics, and climate hazards being examples of this.

Stages of modernity

Beck's work recalls three distinctive epochs of modernity – pre-industrial society or the traditional society; industrial society; and risk society. In the pre-industrial era, society was characterised by a stable, agrarian economy where risks were largely natural and mostly localised, such as famine and epidemics. Risks were managed in such societies based on social order and traditional knowledge systems.

This was followed by the industrial society, the rise of which brought about large-scale production, urbanisation, and technological advancements that transformed both society and the global economy. The world became a more open place with increased global transactions. But it also introduced new risks, including pollution, depletion of natural resources, and the development of riskier technologies, which were often global in scale.

And now, the rapid pace of modernisation, without proper checks and balances, has resulted in a risk society, where there is a fundamental shift in how risks are perceived and managed. Risks are no longer seen as external threats but are increasingly generated by the very systems intended to ensure development and security. Environmental disasters, pandemics, and technological failures reveal the interconnected and global nature of the risks we now face, with consequences that often cross national borders and remain unpredictable. Understanding this shift also requires distinguishing between the different types of risks that societies have faced over time.

Natural versus manufactured risks

Beck distinguishes between natural risks and manufactured risks. Natural risks, such as earthquakes, floods, and diseases like malaria, are unpredictable and often localised. On the other hand, manufactured risks arise from human activities, especially technological and industrial developments. These include nuclear accidents, environmental degradation, and pandemics. Manufactured risks often have global implications and are typically more difficult to predict, control, or mitigate.

The distinction between these two types of risks is important because it highlights how modern society, while advancing technologically, has also become more vulnerable to new forms of risk that are a byproduct of its own progress. For instance, the excessive reliance on fossil fuels has driven climate change, which has resulted in extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and food insecurity. Although these risks are global, they disproportionately affect poorer countries, which are less equipped to adapt to or mitigate these dangers.

Gendered dimension

In a risk society, the management of risks is central to both policy and daily life, but the burden is not equally distributed. Gender roles play a key role in determining who faces the more significant consequences of environmental disasters, health risks, and economic vulnerabilities. Women, especially in developing countries, are often the primary caregivers and household managers, placing them at the forefront of risk mitigation. Their work, whether as unpaid domestic labour or in informal sectors, often goes unrecognised, further reinforcing their vulnerability. They are historically more vulnerable due to unequal access to resources, decision-making power, and healthcare services, exacerbating their exposure to these risks.

Women are also often more susceptible to health risks associated with environmental hazards, such as water pollution, contaminated air, and ecological imbalances. For instance, in many parts of the world, women are primarily responsible for collecting water for their households. If these water sources are contaminated, the health risks extend directly to them. Similarly, women in low-income settings may cook using solid fuels like wood or coal, which release harmful pollutants into the air, leading to respiratory diseases.

The impact of natural risks like extreme weather events, soil degradation, and water scarcity also disproportionately affects women's access to food and water, which in turn affects their health. Gender norms frequently result in women eating last or eating less than their male counterparts. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), anaemia affects 57% of women in India, compared to 25% of men. This stark inequality in health outcomes highlights the disproportionate burden that women face in managing both the risks posed by environmental hazards and their own health.

Women and economic inequality

Women's economic position often exacerbates their vulnerability to the consequences of a risk society. In many cultures, women have limited access to financial resources, land, and property, which limits their ability to recover from environmental or economic disasters. When climate change leads to crop failure or extreme weather, women in rural areas are often the first to suffer from food insecurity. Moreover, women's caregiving roles, whether in terms of childcare, eldercare, or managing health, are often undervalued and unsupported. These gendered responsibilities mean that women bear the emotional and physical burden of managing risks, even as they face the unequal distribution of resources that would allow them to cope effectively.

In a world increasingly shaped by both manufactured and natural risks, Beck's concept of the risk society underscores the importance of reflection and adaptation in addressing the consequences of modernisation. The concept also reveals the gendered dimensions of risk, focusing on how women are disproportionately affected by these challenges and play vital roles in managing and mitigating risks.

Rebecca Rose Varghese is a freelance journalist.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Canada held its general election on Monday. A quiz on nations that went to polls this year

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Alexander Lukashenko extended his 31-year rule after elections were held in January. Name the country.

QUESTION 2
The President of this Latin American country who initially came into power following a snap election in 2023 is set to serve a full four-year term after winning the run-off round this month. Name the country and the President.

QUESTION 3
Along with Canada, which Caribbean country held its parliamentary election on Monday?

QUESTION 4
This military leader won the presidential election of his country this month, after he led a coup in 2023. Name the leader and the country.

QUESTION 5
Name the European country that went to polls earlier this year after the governing coalition collapsed in 2024.

Visual question:
Name this leader and the semi-autonomous territory from where he was elected head of government in March this year. The territory was in the spotlight after Donald Trump took over as U.S. President in January. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. The origin of the term 'Conclave'. **Ans: The term comes from the Latin phrase 'cum clave' meaning 'with a key'**
2. Only 135 are eligible to enter the conclave as cardinal electors because of this rule. **Ans: The electors should be less than 80 years old**
3. This continent has the second-largest number of cardinal electors. **Ans: Asia with 23**
4. The place where electors vote and reside during the period of the Conclave. **Ans: Sistine Chapel and the Domus Sanctae Marthae, a guest house within the Vatican**
5. The common link between Cardinals Baselios Cleemis, Filipe Neri Ferrao, George Koovakad and Anthony Poola. **Ans: They are the four Indian cardinals eligible to vote at this year's Conclave**
6. The rounds of voting held before a run-off is held between the top two candidates. **Ans: 33 rounds**
7. The manner in which the new Pope is announced to the world. **Ans: Through a white smoke produced by burning the ballot papers mixed with some chemical**

Visual: Name the Secretary of State of the Vatican. **Ans: Pietro Parolin**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Devendra Singh Chaudhary

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"I saw a wonderful movie yesterday."

"Really? Which one?"

"*Fiddler on the Roof*. It was just great".

"Who did you see *Fiddler on the Roof* with?"

"Suresh and I saw it at Sujatha's house. And as usual he got into trouble again...."

"...again! Why can't Suresh learn to keep his nose clean?"

"What sort of a question is that? His nose is always clean. How do you ..."

"...hey, cool down, will you? I'm not saying your friend's nose is dirty. 'Keep your nose clean' is a slang expression and it means 'stay out of trouble'."

"Stay out of trouble."

"That's right. For example, the warden told the prisoner to keep his nose clean."

"Can I say, every parent wants his child to keep his nose clean?"

"You can. But remember, 'keep your nose clean' is a slang expression and can be used only in informal contexts. Tell me, what did Suresh do this time?"

"He broke his spectacles at Sujatha's house and ...."

"....but he is blind as a bat without his glasses."

"Blind as a bat! Does that mean he cannot see?"

"That's right. When you say someone is as 'blind as a bat', you either mean 'they have very bad eyesight, or you are teasing them for not being able to find or see something that is very obvious'. For example, Shanthi is as blind as a bat when it comes to her husband's disgraceful behaviour."

"Meaning, Shanthi doesn't even notice his bad behaviour."

"Exactly!"

"Can I say, last night when the power went off, we were all blind as bats?"

"You'd better get used to it. I understand that this year we are going to have fourteen hours of power cut every day."

"Fourteen hours! Good grief! In that case, I'd better get the terrace cleaned. We won't be able to sleep inside of the house."

"That's true. You are probably better off outside the house."

"Outside the house? Not, 'outside of the house'? "

"Both are possible. You can either say, 'I was inside of the house when the accident took place', or 'I was inside the house when the accident took place'."

"I see. So, where are you going to be during the summer? Inside of the house? Or outside the house?"

"Most definitely outside the house! You see, I'm going to Darjeeling this summer!"

Published in The Hindu on April 23, 1996.

Word of the day

Lope:
a slow pace of running; a smooth three-beat gait; between a trot and a gallop; run easily

Synonyms: jog, trot, canter

Usage: *The horses loped easily across the fields.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/lopepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ləʊp/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

137.5 acres of forest land to be diverted for Mysuru-Kushalnagar highway project

But activists are peeved that the land proposed for compensatory afforestation is in Vijayapura district in north Karnataka

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The project aims to widen NH-275 from Mysuru to Kushalnagar from two to six lanes with paved shoulders, and the diversion of forest land will be in Hunsur and Periyapatna taluks. M.A. SRIRAM

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has sought the diversion of 137.5 acres of forest for the Mysuru-Kushalnagar highway, which is being taken up at a cost of nearly ₹3,800 crore.

While the NHAI has been directed to take up compensatory afforestation to the extent of the forest loss, activists are peeved that the land proposed for it is in Vijayapura district.

The project also entails felling 691 trees, of which 571 have been marked in the Hunsur division and 120 in the Cauvery block notified forest area under the administration of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve. However, the latter is neither included in the Nagarahole Core nor the Buffer area.

The project is to widen NH-275 from Mysuru to Kushalnagar from two lanes to six lanes with paved shoulders, and the diversion of forest land will be in Hunsur and Periyapatna taluks of the district.

The total land required for the project is 577.41 hectares or nearly 1,427 acres, of which non-forest land is 521.78 hectares and forest land is 55.63 hectares.

The NHAI has been asked to take up compensatory afforestation for tree felling in Hunsur and Periyapatna, at Bhutanala village in the Vijayapura district. This has raised hassles in conservation circles, and Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife conservationist, has written to the forest authorities questioning the logic behind compensatory afforestation in an area far away from the project-affected place.

He pointed out that the compensatory afforestation has to be done in lieu of the diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. This is normally done over an equivalent area of non-forest land in the same district where the forest diversion is sought.

But in many cases, compensatory afforestation lands are proposed in other districts instead of the same district where the forest diversion is sought, as in the case of the present project, and it defeats the purpose, he said.

"It is beyond imagination how compensatory afforestation proposed in Vijayapura district is going to compensate for forest loss at Hunsur in Mysuru district," said Mr. Kulkarni. "It is critical that the resulting tree loss in Hunsur and Periyapatna is compensated within the same or nearby regions, as planting trees elsewhere does not address the immediate ecological and climatic disruptions caused locally," he added.

With reference to Hunsur, he pointed out that human-wildlife conflict was high and was occurring on a regular basis, and therefore it made sense to procure private land close to areas of conflict prone regions and take up compensatory afforestation, the cost of which will be met by the NHAI.

In his letter to the authorities, Mr. Kulkarni urged the Forest Department to plan the compensatory afforestation scheme strategically to strengthen and widen wildlife corridors, particularly in regions prone to human-wildlife conflict, as in Hunsur and surrounding areas. This, Mr. Kulkarni said, would help restore ecological connectivity, enable safe movement of animals between habitats, thereby reducing encounters with human settlements.

Metro commuter fined ₹500 for eating on train

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a firm enforcement of metro regulations, a commuter travelling from Madavara Metro Station to Magadi Road Metro Station was fined ₹500 on Monday, for violating metro rules.

The passenger was penalised after being caught eating while onboard a Namma Metro train on April 26. The incident came to light when a co-passenger recorded the violation and shared it on social media. On Monday, as the commuter entered Madavara Station, security identified and fined her. As per BMRCL regulations, the consumption of food and beverages on metro premises and trains is strictly prohibited. The rule aims to maintain cleanliness, prevent littering, and ensure a hygienic and pleasant experience.

BMRCL reiterated that Namma Metro is a shared space where adherence to rules is crucial for maintaining comfort and safety. It encouraged commuters to stay mindful of the rules.

Move to curb drunken driving

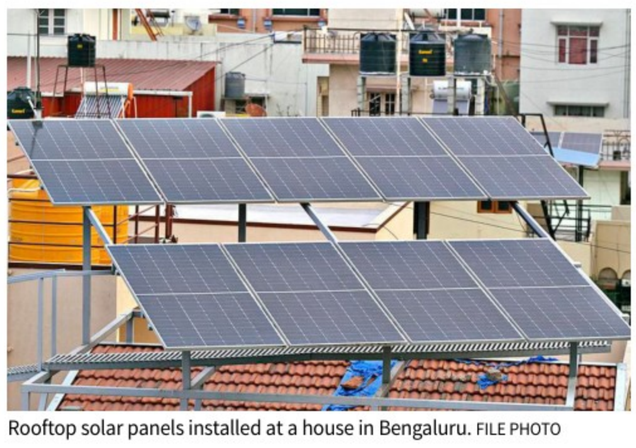
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police booked 668 motorists for driving drunk during a special drive carried out across the city last week.

According to an official release, as many as 43,253 vehicles have been checked. The police have also booked 185 motorists who were found overspeeding and slapped a fine of ₹1,89,000 on them.

The special drive aimed to curb drunken driving and overspeeding to ensure road safety in the city. This drive will continue, M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, said.

Only 3,453 rooftop solar plants installed since 2022 in Bengaluru



Rooftop solar panels installed at a house in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

PM SURYA GHAR YOJANA

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The progress of PM Surya Ghar Yojana, under which residential consumers can install solar rooftop photovoltaic (SRTPV) systems continues to be slow in the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) region as the utility has installed only 3,453 systems since 2022 when the scheme was launched in Karnataka.

Under the scheme, consumers get subsidies up to 60% for the installation of rooftop solar plants. For a plant of 1 kilowatt (KW) capacity, consumers get a subsidy of ₹30,000, for which the total installation cost would be around ₹60,000 - 80,000. Similarly, for 2 KW capacity plants, the subsidy is ₹60,000, and for 3 KW plants, it is ₹78,000.

The data provided by the Demand Side Management (DSM) department of Bescom shows that while 70,830 applications have been received so far, only 3,453 of them have proceeded to the installation stage. Bescom officials said that there is a large gap between the number of applications received and the installations, as most people do not take up the project in a serious manner. "Most people randomly apply and are not serious about installation. For instance, if someone lives in a rented house, they cannot install rooftop solar systems, and even such consumers sometimes apply under the scheme. Then comes the vendor dilemma, where they are not aware of which vendors to select. Out of the total number of people who applied, only 6,122 of them went to vendor selection stage," said a Bescom official.

However, consumers present a different version of the story. They say that while they want to install solar plants, the sub-division officials do not take their applications seriously.

"The response at Bescom sub-divisions when we approach them after applying is not great. We get calls from vendors pretending to be Bescom officials. The local officers also have some favouritism when it comes to vendors and want us to route our project only through such vendors. After multiple attempts, I gave up on the plan to install rooftop solar plant under the Surya Ghar Yojana," said Vishnu Kumar, a resident of Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

Gowri R., another new homeowner in Doddakallasandra, said that while she had initially planned to install solar panels on the rooftop of her house, she had to drop the plan after having to allegedly pay bribes for other electrical works. "During the construction stage, from temporary meter to approval for the elevator, we had to pay bribes at every point. I decided not to install the panels as I did not want to pay another bribe," she said.

Bescom officials denied the allegations and said that with the whole process of PM Surya Ghar Yojana being online, there is no scope for corruption and consumers can easily apply and get the plants installed.

Gruha Jyothi a hindrance

The Gruha Jyothi scheme, under which eligible domestic consumers get free electricity up to 200 units, a Bescom official said, has been one of the major hindrances for the installation of rooftop solar plants. "We continue to do social media campaigns and put up banners, hand out pamphlets at our exhibitions to get the consumers who do not come under Gruha Jyothi to install rooftop solar plants. But this number is very small," he said.

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BJP busy twisting my statements to hide its own failures, says CM

'Centre failed to protect the citizens, but to escape from that accusation, it is engaged in false propaganda against me'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

As the BJP kept up its attack on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah about his statement on the prospect of going to war with Pakistan, he launched a counter-attack at the 'Save Constitution, Save Nation' rally of the the Congress at Belagavi, accusing the saffron party of twisting his statements to hide its own failures.

"I have spoken against war frenzy, and not war per se. When some reporters asked me in Mysuru whether there was the need for a war with Pakistan, I said no. I strongly believe, however, that when war is inevitable, we are ready for it. We would be ready for an all-out war, if the need arises. I am always for the security, unity and integrity of the country," the Chief Minister said, addressing at the

He alleged that while the Union government had failed to protect its citizens, the issue was being deflected and he was being

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah pays respects to Pehalgam terror attack victims during the 'Save Constitution, Save Nation' rally in Belagavi on Monday. P.K. BADIGER

blamed to hide the real failure. "The Union government failed to protect the citizens, but to escape from that accusation, it is engaged in false propaganda against me. It is unfortunate that some television channels are supporting the BJP in this game. All this is only to blame me, and hide the BJP's intelligence and security failures," he said.

He sought to know how there could be no security personnel, police or military at the tourist spot where people were attacked. "Even after the attack, help was not forthcoming immediately. Is this not a failure of the government? Should we not ask questions about the lapses in security and intelligence to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah?" He asked.

He went on to say that when he tried to raise these "pertinent questions", he was being attacked. Referring to some BJP activists trying to disrupt the rally, he said, "But the BJP should realise that we can not be silenced like this. We are not afraid of you. Leading people's movements is not new to the Congress. The Congress party led the poor, peasants, minorities and backward classes in the freedom struggle against the British. Not a single leader of the RSS or Jan Sangh was involved in the freedom struggle. What is more, for 52 years after independence, the RSS did not fly the national flag in its headquarters. We do not need lessons on patriotism from such leaders and parties," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah launched an attack on the BJP, accusing them of being responsible for the rising prices of essential commodities, only to help its "corporate friends" make profits, while neglecting the poor people of the country. "What is more, it is misleading the people of the country by blaming the Congress governments in the states for the price rise. It is also destroying the spirit of the Constitution by dividing the society on the lines of caste and religion," the Chief Minister said in Belagavi.

Siddaramaiah loses temper at police officer as BJP worker shouts 'go to Pakistan'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's speech during the 'Save Constitution, Save Nation' rally in Belagavi was disrupted by some BJP activists who shouted slogans against him.

One activist shouted slogans asking Mr. Siddaramaiah to "go to Pakistan." The activist was frisked away by the police, but disrupted the rally for a few minutes during the Chief Minister's speech.

Mr. Siddaramaiah got disturbed by this and summoned the police to come to the stage. Narayan Baramani, additional SP, Dharwad, who was posted near the stage, was pulled up by the Chief Minister. An irritated Chief Minister even raised his hand and Mr. Baramani took a step back. He resumed his speech after senior Ministers like H.K. Patil and M.B. Patil, and Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala pacified him.

Soon after, taking to twitter, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra described the woman who had shouted the slogan as "a brave patriot" and took exception to the Chief Minister being rude to a police officer in uniform.

A videograb shows Chief Minister Siddaramaiah making a gesture towards a police officer at a public function in Belagavi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Later in the day, the Belagavi police arrested six women activists of the BJP on the charge of asking the Chief Minister to "go to Pakistan", for displaying black flags and shouting slogans to disrupt the rally.

Women constables had removed Shilpa Kirke and five others from the rally venue and taken them to the police station after the incident.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar criticised the BJP for trying to disrupt the rally. "If this goes on, we will take very strict measures. We will not allow them to organise even one function in the State. This is not a request, but a warning. I am asking the BJP senior leaders to give wise counsel to their cadres. This is not how you protest. You cannot come here, join the crowd and raise slogans or black flags against us when we are holding a rally. You can organise as many protests as you can. But you can disrupt our rallies," he said.

Snakebite deaths in State to be audited at district level

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With a steady rise in the number of snakebite cases and deaths, the State Health Department will now audit all snakebite deaths. The H1N1 death audit committee in the districts has now been assigned with the responsibility of auditing deaths from snakebites, according to a recent government order (GO).

Snakebite envenoming is a neglected tropical disease (NTD) caused by the bite of a venomous snake, which are usually accidental in nature. The State reported 3,392 cases and 20 deaths this year as of April 28.

The number of recorded snakebite envenoming cases and deaths in Karnataka have seen a sharp rise from 6,596 bite cases and 19 deaths in 2023 to 13,235 cases and 101 deaths in 2024. This follows Karnataka declaring snakebite envenoming cases and deaths notifiable under the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020 from February 2024.

Fact sheet

Year	Snakebite cases	Deaths
2022	3,439	17
2023	6,596	19
2024	13,235	101
2025*	3,392	20

(till April 28)

According to the GO, all the Deputy Commissioners have been authorised to review the audit of deaths from snakebites by the H1N1 committee in their jurisdiction.

The Deputy Commissioners have also been directed to conduct a review of the implementation of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NPSE) in their jurisdictional district at least once in every quarter. They have also been directed to take necessary measures to correct the challenges noticed in the implementation of NPSE, stated the GO.

Ansar Ahmed, State Project Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP), said after the snakebite envenoming cases and deaths were declared notifiable, measures were initiated to reduce the morbidity and mortality due to snakebites. "While anti-snake venom (ASV) is made available in sufficient stocks in all facilities (starting from primary health centres to district hospitals), standard operating procedures (SOPs) to administer initial loading dose of 10 vials for all snakebite cases with signs and symptoms of snakebite envenomation have been issued. Besides, physicians and medical officers were trained at different levels for managing snakebite cases," he said.

However, despite all measures, the State is facing some challenges in the implementation of the programme.

"Reporting of cases and deaths is not 100% as some of the medical colleges and private hospitals are not reporting all cases or there is delay in reporting. Besides, bite victims still seek treatment from traditional faith healers leading to loss of precious time, which is the main cause of death as per death analysis," Dr. Ahmed said.

While medical officers in the periphery must be continuously trained, community awareness must be created through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) involving other departments, the official pointed out. Following this, there was a need to set up a district-level mechanism for better monitoring of all snakebite deaths, he added.

SC/ST Atrocities Act: HC quashes FIR against Kris Gopalakrishnan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has quashed a First Information Report (FIR) registered against Kris Gopalakrishnan, Infosys co-founder and chair of the governing council of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and others, including the IISc director, on a complaint of alleged atrocity by the institute's former faculty member from the Scheduled Castes (SC) community.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the order while allowing a petition filed by IISc director Govindan Rangarajan, Mr. Gopalakrishnan, and 14 others.

The FIR was registered against the petitioners under Section 3 of the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1890, on the complaint by Sanna Durgappa, who used to work in Centre for Sustainable Technologies of the IISc.

The court noted that Mr. Durgappa was found guilty of repeated sexual harassment and was dismissed from service in 2014. However, the order of dismissal was converted into resignation in April 2016, based on his request for amicable settlement made before the High Court during the pendency of his petition against dismissal from service.

The court also noted that Mr. Durgappa had give an undertaking to the court that he would withdraw all the proceedings and complaints lodged with various authorities against the institutes and persons associated with it.

However, the filing of this FIR by Mr. Durgappa with similar allegations as made in earlier complaints is clearly a vexatious attempt to harass the petitioners, the court said, while giving liberty to the petitioners to seek nod from the State Advocate-General to initiate criminal contempt of court proceedings against Mr. Durgappa for having violated the undertaking given to the court earlier.

Also, the court said that averments made in the present FIR do not constitute any offence as it had arisen from a civil dispute over dismissal from service that had already attained finality owing to amicable settlement.

'Governor has promised to intervene in suspension of MLAs'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot is set to take up the issue of the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs for six months with the State government and the Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, according to Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok.

Speaking to presspersons after holding discussion in this regard with the Governor, Mr. Ashok maintained that it was "anti-democratic" on the part of the Speaker to suspend the 18 BJP MLAs, who were protesting over the alleged honey-trap episode and reservation for Muslims in government contracts.

Arguing that any suspension as per norms should not extend beyond the duration of the legislature session concerned, he took exception to the Speaker suspending the MLAs for six months.

"The Opposition is as important as the ruling party. We have spoken to the Law Minister and the Speaker. The issue has been brought to the Governor's attention, and he has promised that he will speak to the Speaker and also write a letter," Mr. Ashok said.

The BJP has decided to boycott the meetings of legislature committees till the suspension is revoked.

Launching an attack at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his Cabinet colleagues regarding the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Mr. Ashok said: "Congress leaders have been issuing misleading statements about terrorist attack. Terrorists shot people after confirming their faith. According to R.B. Thimmapur, the terrorists were in a hurry and killed tourists immediately without asking any question about their faith.For Congress leaders, votes matter, not the nation".

May 10 is last date to apply for PGCET, Diploma CET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The KEA has invited online applications for admission to postgraduate courses for the academic year 2025-26 through PGCET, and through Diploma CET (DCET). The last date to submit applications online for both these examinations is May 10.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client proposes to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from its Owners **Mr S Rangarajan and Vaidehi S Amudhan.** If any individual or corporate or institution have any claim or right in respect of the Schedule property they shall submit their claim in writing with all supporting documents to the undersigned **within 10 days** from the date of this public notice. If no such claim is received our clients will proceed to complete the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **no.15/7, PID No.75-44-15/7**, situated Cambridge Road, Halsuru, Bengaluru -560010, with existing building thereon. Site Measuring on the East : 37 feet ; West : 30 feet ; North: 67 feet ; South: 67feet Bounded on the: **East:** Cambridge Road, **West:** Property no.15, **North :** Property no.15, **South :** Property belonging to Sethuraman.

Sd/-
Anil Kumar Shetty, Advocate
#14, 1st cross, Madhavnagar,
Bengaluru-01, Mob:9845040272.
Email:lawandsolutionsin@gmail.com

Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited
5th Floor, Plot No. 137, Sector- 44 I Gurgaon- 122002 Ph: 0124 - 4527200

Rule 8(1)
POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas,
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited ("Encore ARC"), acting in its capacity of being Trustee of EARC – BANK – 030 – Trust, has acquired all rights, title and interests of Indostar Capital Finance Limited ('ICFL'), in the financial assets of (i) M/s. Sri Govindarao Military Hotel, (ii) Mr. Eshwar Rao, S/o. Mr. Santhoji Rao, & (iii) Mrs. Sumithra Bai, originated by ICFL, vide a registered Assignment Agreement under section 5 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 ('SARFAESI Act, 2002').
And whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC under SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ('Rules'), issued a demand notice dated 15.01.2025 calling upon the borrowers (i) M/s. Sri Govindarao Military Hotel, (ii) Mr. Eshwar Rao, S/o. Mr. Santhoji Rao, & (iii) Mrs. Sumithra Bai, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.1,47,72,431/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Seven Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty One Only) as on 15.01.2025 together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. 16.01.2025, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The borrower/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given by the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Encore ARC, to the borrower/mortgagor and the public in general that the Authorised Officer has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on 25.04.2025.
The borrower/mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Private Limited for an amount of Rs.1,47,72,431/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Seven Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty One Only) as on 15.01.2025, together with further interest at contractual rate, incidental expenses and costs w.e.f. 16.01.2025.
The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule of Properties
Description of Immovable Properties:

All that piece and parcel of Site No. 221, Old No. 11, PID No. 30-28-221, Ward No. 30, Situated at B.V. Lankappa Road, Police Road, Ranasinga Pette, Bangalore, presently comes under the limits of BBMP admeasuring 658 sq ft and bounded as under: East : Common Passage and others Property, West : Property of Mr. Govindha Rao, North : Road, South : Common Passage and Umaji Rao, Measuring: East to West on the Northen Side 16.9 Sq.ft, East to West on the Southern Side 18 Sq.ft, North to South on the Eastern Side 33.9 Sq.ft, North to South on the Western Side 42 Sq.ft, Total extent of 658 Sq.ft and building thereon 2090 Sq.ft

Date: 25.04.2025
Place: Bangalore

K.Nagendran
Authorized Officer
Encore Asset Reconstruction Company Pvt. Ltd.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office:- PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
website: www.pspcl.in (Contact 9646118773)

Tender Enquiry No.: Q-4031/25-26/PO-T/CE-MM

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites SHORT TERM E-tender of 6265 Nos., Single Phase, 10 kVA, ISI Marked, EEL-1, oil immersed, CRGO/Amorphous core, Alluminium wound, distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specifications & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 30.04.2025 onwards**.
NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C 319/25 76155/12/4190/2023/43935

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (South),
7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following Works.

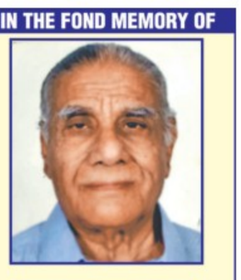
Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South-1	BWSSB/ EES-1/TO/AE/ 117/2025-26 Dated: 24-04-2025	Rs. 4,55,144/- / Rs. 11,400/-	06-05-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	08-05-2025 After 4.00 PM
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)
2	South-2	BWSSB/EE(S2)/ PB/58/2025-26 Dated: 25-04-2025 (Call-3)	Rs. 3,24,959/- / Rs. 8,200/-	08-05-2025 Upto 4.00 PM	09-05-2025 After 4.30 PM
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement Portal process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/Adverto/401/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

IN THE FOND MEMORY OF



Dr. Nirmalya Kumar Majumder
(Age: 90 years)
Retired Director Professor of the Dept. of ENT, JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry
With profound grief we mourn the sad demise of Dr N K Majumder on the 27th of April 2025
He will be deeply missed by
Mrs Anila Majumder (Wife)
A passionate teacher, lover of music, history, art, and nature. A true revolutionary in both Medicine and society, he inspired the world to think with an open mind, embrace people of all religions and backgrounds, and challenge norms for the benefit of humanity.
"Dadoo" will be missed by -
Aditi and Gangadhar, Kingshuk and Nita, and grandchildren Arya, Sahil, Anya, and Rohan.
He will be missed by - a host of relatives, friends, patients, and colleagues.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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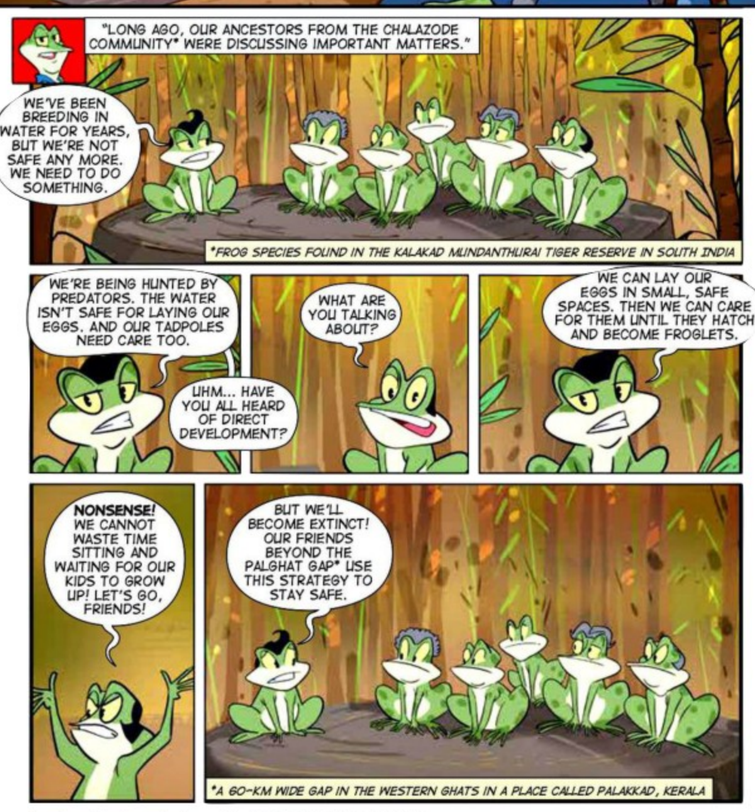
Matching labs with laughs to demystify science for children through comics

Institutions like NCBS and ATREE are collaborating with Tinkle to help make their research interesting for children

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU



Daring Chalazode frog dad. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Dr. Dimple Notani is a scientist with the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) studying gene regulation. But for the young readers of Tinkle Magazine, she is now a 'superwoman' who explains how an elephant, a monkey and a human are so different, and yet have DNA that is 98% similar.

Notani appears in the February edition of the children's magazine as a character breaking down the science into fun, simple and intriguing information for children.

Science is commonly perceived as 'complex', often leaving a gap between research and the general public. The notion often instills fear in children stopping them from pursuing it or even engaging with it. Institutions like NCBS and Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) have been collaborating with Tinkle to help break this barrier and make their research accessible and interesting for children.

Non-preachy science

"Introducing children to science and scientific research was always on our cards," says Jaya Peter, head of communications at ATREE. "This seemed to be a fun way to do it because comics don't preach. It's very easy to explain things in a comic format, and you can educate without sounding boring and teacherly."

Peter remembers how as a children she believed one needed to be as brainy as Einstein to be a scientist. She believes comics are a great way to dispel this myth.

"We wanted to convey to the children that if you have a unique question and if you pursue it, that is all it takes. And we give examples of researchers who started their work that way." Featuring interesting characters each time - from Duggy, the very swaggy dung beetle, to the daring Chalazode frog dad to Mynah who educates her parents about invasive fish species - the ATREE team has worked with Tinkle to bring out the comics in the catchiest formats for children. Even the most popular Shikari Shambu makes cameo appearances, sometimes taking children out on safari, other times being schooled by a bee!

No child's play

While the comics may look fun and simple, the task at hand is often anything but that, notes Peter.

The communications team at ATREE interact with researchers to find story ideas that make for interesting comics. Discussions with the magazine team follow, a storyline and narrative evolve, and fact checks are done. It takes more than a month to finish one comic, Peter explains.

"Sometimes, we come across difficult subjects. For example, children have been told by adults that forests appear a particular way. So, when they look at a grassland, what they see may not be a forest, but a wasteland. There is also the problem of the content coming across as very preachy when we try to explain a certain concept."

But when things get too difficult, 'Shambu' comes to the rescue!

"When we have a difficult subject, we use 'Shikari Shambu' because he's very popular among children. We'd show a group of children going for a safari to a grassland with Shambu uncle. Those kinds of ideas help," she notes.

According to Peter, ATREE is currently planning to bring out 10 such comics with the help of Tinkle.

Women scientists

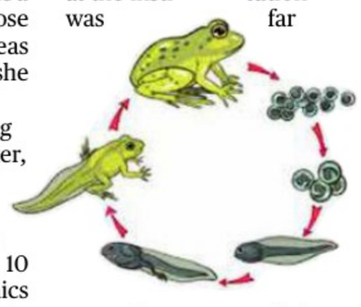
NCBS, on the other hand, has brought out nine comics in association with Tinkle so far and is in the process of bringing out the last in the series. The comics which started last year and appear every alternate month, feature women scientists working at the institution and their research.

"We wanted to highlight science, but through different women scientists who are working at NCBS," says Rupsy Khurana, lead – science communication and outreach, at NCBS.

"The kind of research that NCBS does is very exclusive in some terms. We wanted to take these interesting stories of neuroscience or genetics or wildlife to children through interesting storytelling formats and I was looking for places for collaboration where the systems are already in place," she recollects.

Tinkle, with its young reader base of around three lakh children, seemed the perfect fit and the team reached out to the magazine.

Given the number of women scientists working at the institution was far



more than what could be featured in the comics, the team looked at research works that were relatively easier to explain. The comics deal with different topics such neuroscience, genetics, interactions between plants and organisms and so on, themes which children are familiar with to an extent.

"The idea was to not just talk about science, but to motivate children to read more science and engage in more science. We have highlighted the work happening in labs, but in some cases, also highlighted personal stories of the scientists, their journey, struggles, failures and successes."

But why women scientists?

"We wanted to motivate children and specifically young girls," Khurana says.

"Even today if you look at the proportion of women scientists it is very skewed. So, the idea was to show that anybody could do science. Ofcourse there will be challenges, but it is possible."

While the project to make their research accessible and engaging for children has been exciting for the scientists, translating complex ideas into a language children can easily understand has at times been a challenge.

The researchers at ATREE, for example, prepare a whole new presentation for their discussions with the Tinkle team, says Peter.

"They usually have a standard presentation that they give at conferences. But that won't work for creative people or for children. So, we redo it. Certain researchers are very skilled at breaking it down. But there are a few who find it challenging."

Notani of NCBS recollects how, on receiving the first draft of the comic from Tinkle based on her synopsis, she realised that there were a lot of jargons. 'DNA code' is a case in point.

"Code to you and me might mean something very different. A small child may understand it differently because coding in the sense of computer programming is very well known these days. That's when we realised it's much more challenging than we thought." She also notes that there is the challenge which arises in terms of the socio-economic background of the child.

"I come from an underprivileged background, and I studied in a Hindi medium government school. Comprehension of children coming from government school versus the private school can be very different. You don't want to exclude these children by posing difficult language that probably they would never understand. But how do you bring these children into the mainstream? How do you get them excited about your science?" wonders Notani who believes the answer will become clearer only with more such initiatives.

The chain effect

Gayathri Chandrasekaran, Editor-in-Chief at Tinkle, notes that while the magazine has always carried pieces on science, environment and ecology, what is exciting about these comics is that they talk about research that is current and Indian.

"It is otherwise not accessible to the general public, much less children," she notes.

"The thing with comics is that you can use it as a medium to talk about anything. Our target group is mainly children between 7 to 12. To write for a child, you have to dive into the heart of the matter and use simplicity to tell the story. So, we go through all the information, look at what is the best way to tell the story and see what bits would be exciting for the children."

According to Chandrasekaran, the comics have received a very positive response from the readers. "Many have written saying they learned something new," she says.

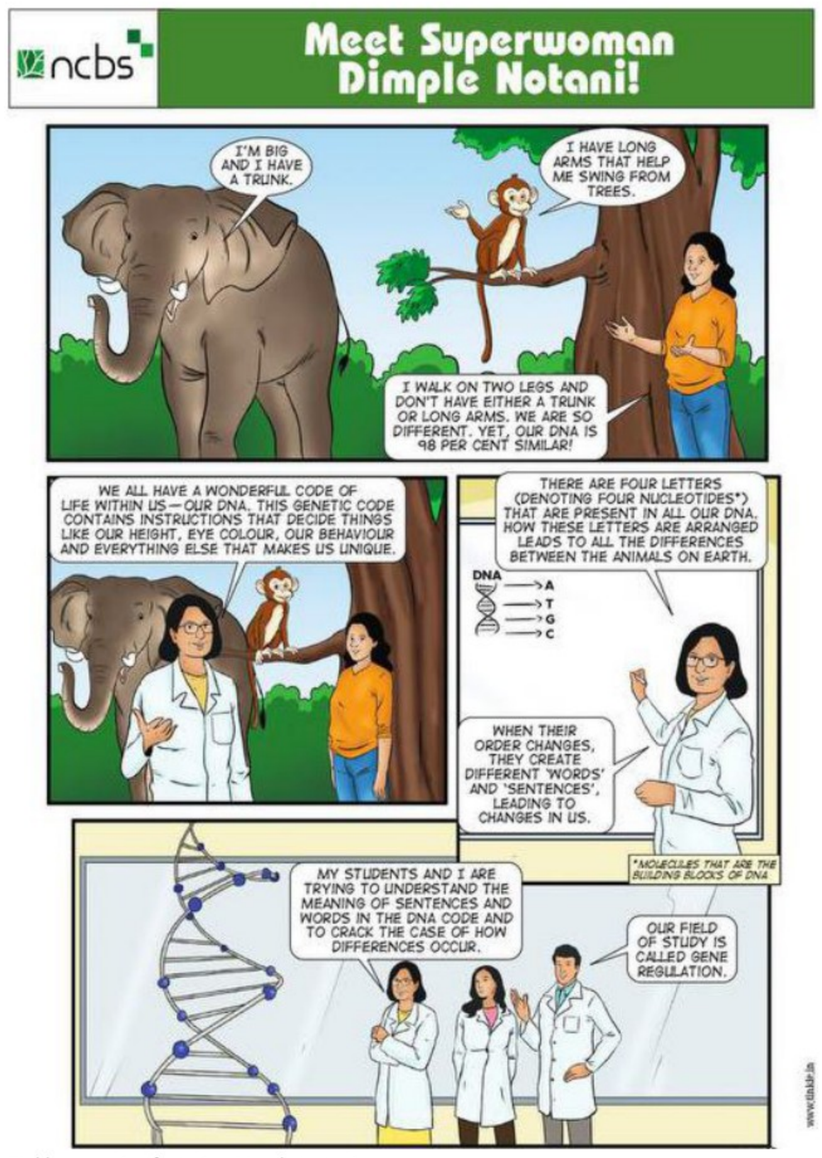
Notani also points out how the comic has had a chain-effect.

After the magazine featuring her work was out, several people in her apartment complex reached out to her requesting one-to-one talks with their children.

"This way, I got a better opportunity to talk more about my work and explain things better. Many children asked me doubts that were not clear for them from the writeup."

What about her own daughter? Notani laughs.

"I am not sure how much of the content my nine-year-old understood. But she was excited to see her own mother in Tinkle."



Tinkle magazine featuring Dimple Notani. SPECIAL ARRAGEMENT

Preterm newborn undergoes rare liver tumour resection at private hospital in Bengaluru

The doctors claimed that there are no reported cases worldwide of liver tumor resection in a three-day-old preterm baby weighing just two kg

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A preterm newborn (three-day-old baby) suffering from respiratory distress, secondary to the compression effect caused by a large liver tumour, which was occupying 70% of the abdomen, has successfully undergone a rare liver resection procedure in a private hospital in Bengaluru.

The male baby, born at 33 weeks on February 5 in a private hospital, started facing breathing difficulty. He was immediately referred to Sakra World Hospital for further diagnosis. The baby weighed 2.18 kg at birth.

Doctors diagnosed that the breathing difficulty was due to a huge swelling inside the abdomen, which was pressing on the lungs. The baby was put on ventilator support. An evaluation revealed an intra-abdominal tumour whose origin was not clear. A team of doctors at the hospital led by Anil Kumar Pura Lingegowda, Senior Consultant (Paediatric Surgery), who evaluated the baby, decided to perform a surgery to remove the swelling because of its pressure effect on vital organs. The surgery was done on February 8. The baby was discharged on March 7, and is doing well on follow-up. "The swelling was arising from the left lobe of the liver and occupying 70% of the abdominal cavity, which means the size of the tumour was 10x8x7 cm.

The surgery was carried out in Sakra World Hospital in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But the challenge was to perform resection of the tumour, which was very risky for a three-day-old preterm baby because of bleeding and low weight of the baby," said Dr. Lingegowda. "The intraoperative phase posed a significant challenge, particularly due to the need for massive blood transfusion, which was managed by our anaesthesia and OT management team led by its director Shishir Chandrashekhar. Additionally, the tumour resection from the liver was successfully performed with the expertise of liver transplant surgeon Shruti Reddy," he said. Shivakumar Sambargi, Senior Consultant (Pediatrics and Neonatology), said the post-operative period was equally challenging, requiring careful management to maintain homeostasis.

Challenges faced

"The tumour was identified as a mesenchymal hamartoma, a rare occurrence in neonates, with complete excision being the definitive cure. Usually discovered in infancy, mesenchymal hamartoma of the liver (MHL) is a rare, benign developing tumour in infants that has a mixture of solid and cystic areas. After infantile haemangioma, it is the second most frequent benign liver tumour in children," Dr. Sambargi explained.

"Managing anesthesia and blood transfusion in such a tiny newborn was extremely challenging, but our team ensured the baby remained stable throughout the procedure," said Dr. Chandrashekar.

The doctors claimed that there are no reported cases worldwide of liver tumor resection in a three-day-old preterm baby weighing just 2 kg.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

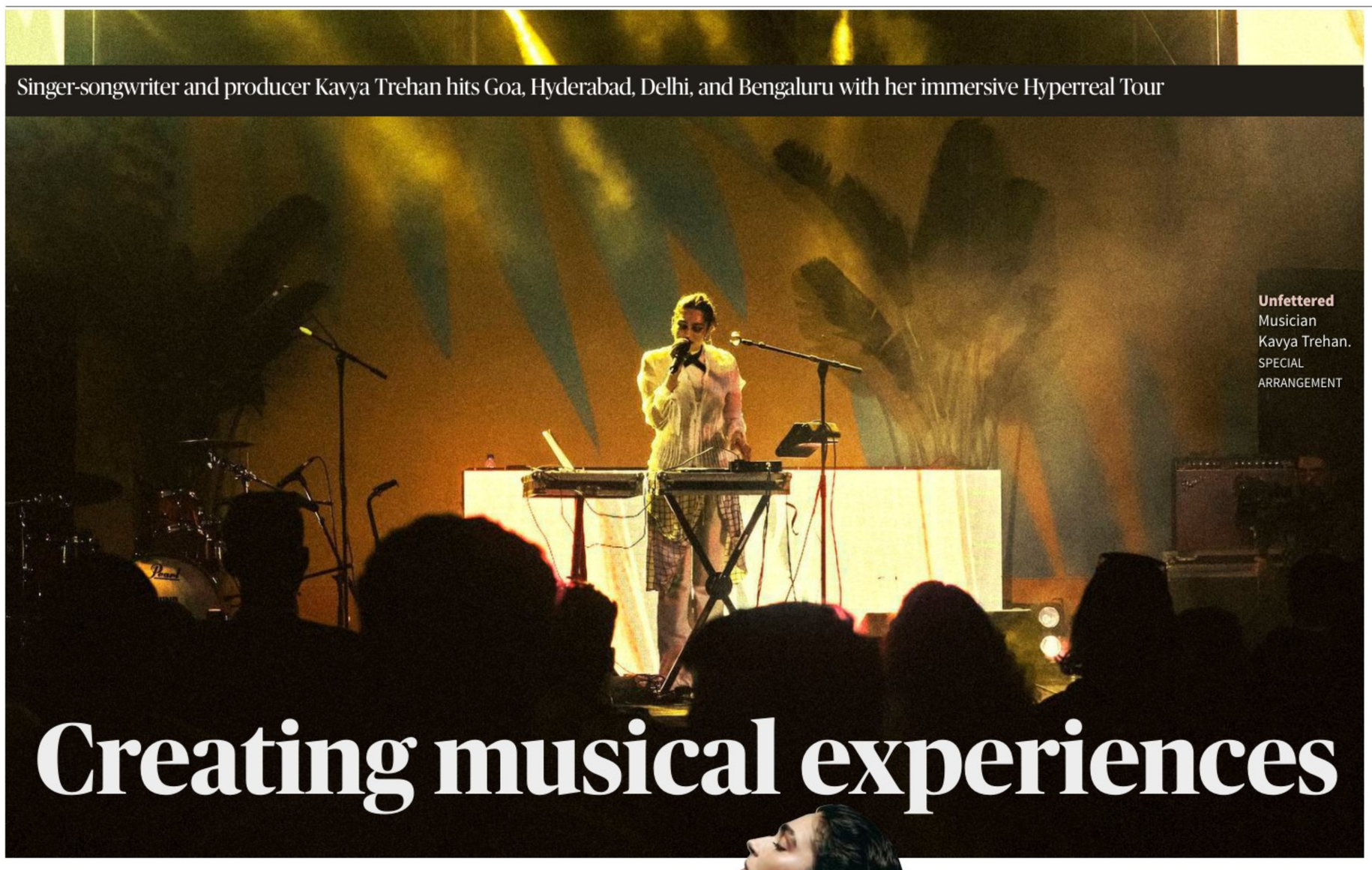
FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1975

Urs Appeal to Teachers to Call off Agitation

Bangalore, April 28. The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs today made a fervent appeal to the representatives of the Federation of College and University Teachers Associations in Karnataka to call off their hunger strike and warned them that the Government would not be moved by their agitational methods.

The representatives of the university and college teachers representing the Federation of College and University Teachers' Associations in Karnataka have gone on a hunger strike in front of the residence of the Chief Minister since yesterday in protest against the failure of the Government to implement its several orders relating to the college and university teachers, which include promotion of all college teachers who had put in 15 years of continued service to the supernumerary posts of readers.

Mr. Urs said in the State Legislative Council that though the Government passed an order to the effect that all those teacherswho had put in 15 years of continued service would be promoted to the supernumerary cadre of Lecturers it had to modify this order and created 102 supernumerary posts of Readers to promote those teachers who had completed 15 years of service as on December 28, 1973.



Singer-songwriter and producer Kavya Trehan hits Goa, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Bengaluru with her immersive Hyperreal Tour

Unfettered Musician Kavya Trehan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Creating musical experiences

S B Vijaya Mary

When 14-year-old Kavya Trehan told her mom she wanted to perform at an open mic (the kind where they serve alcohol too), her mom did not panic or lecture – she just said, "Cool, I will come with you." At the event, Kavya, mostly just wanting some attention, got up and sang whatever popped into her head. It was not perfect, but that bold little moment gave her a head start in music, and by 17, she was already on tour.

Midway through her Hyperreal Tour across India, singer-songwriter and producer Kavya speaks over the phone about her journey, the story behind Hyperreal, and what it means to share her music truly. Despite having toured since her teens, Kavya calls Hyperreal her most ambitious project yet. "Each tour I have done has had its own flavour, but this one is different. It is not just about performing anymore, it is about creating an experience that hits every sense," she says adding, "The stage brings out a mix of stress, excitement, and vulnerability, and I have come to love that chaos."

'Hyperreal' is both a title and a concept, she says and the immersive world behind it was visualised by her sister Khyati and brother-in-law Sanchit, who has been listening to Kavya's music since her school days. "He saw how my acoustic, organic music had grown into something electronic and cinematic," Kavya shares. "So he imagined a world, set in the future, where archaeologists uncover relics from our time, our sounds, colours, emotions. What would that discovery look like? What would it sound like?"

Hyperreal is their answer to that question – a three-part performance with storytelling, visuals, costumes, and a stage that feels more like a gallery. Kavya compares it to theatre. "There is a dystopian voice that guides you through the sections. First, where you are; then, realising you are suspended in time; and finally, surrendering to transformation."

This tour marks several firsts for Kavya, like her own merchandise, a visual artiste on tour, and a dedicated sound engineer. "It may be baby steps, but they're mine," she says. "This tour lets me be selfish in the best way to present the music how I want to, not just how it is expected."

Live first

Instead of releasing the EP and then touring, Kavya has opted to do it the other way around. "The live experience comes first. I want the music to be discovered like a piece in a gallery. The record will come out in May, after the tour," says Kavya who, alongside the producers, carefully curated the set to take audiences on an emotional journey – from organic-sounding singer-songwriter pieces to electronic, atmospheric soundscapes. "We looked at tempo patterns, instrumentation, even emotional tone. It is all organised chaos. It had to flow like a story, not just a playlist," she explains. The result? A blend of released songs, unreleased EP material, and hidden gems."

> It may be baby steps, but this tour lets me present the music how I want to, not just how it is expected.
>
> **KAVYA TREHAN**
> Singer-songwriter

One of Kavya's grouses was about having to perform solo. "I was tired of feeling lonely on stage," she confesses. "I wanted to go back to performing with a band, like I did in the beginning." Her collaborators on the tour include Goya, Dhir Modi, and visual artiste Nikunj Patel. "I am just so thrilled to have this team. Everyone is chosen from the gut – great humans before great artistes."

Having just wrapped the shoot for Netflix's forthcoming modern-day Indian royalty rom-com *The Royals*, Kavya speaks about her dual passions: "For me, acting and singing go hand in hand, they both come from the same place of expression and storytelling."

Journey so far

So how did her music journey begin? "Honestly, I think it was a conspiracy," Kavya laughs. "My mom named me Kavya, and now I literally live the meaning of my name."

Raised by her mother and sister in a home full of multilingual music – from George Michael to regional Indian classics – Kavya absorbed a wide range of sounds. "My mom speaks and reads so many Indian dialects. We would hear Bengali songs one day, Malayalam the next."

As she gears up for shows in Goa, Hyderabad, Delhi, and Bengaluru, Kavya says the core of her tour stays untouched. "The show's not changing for each city. Tech might vary, but the performance? That's all me. Take it or leave it," she grins.

Kavya Trehan's Hyperreal comes to Fandom, Bengaluru on May 2. Tickets on District

CITYBEATS

Sweet indulgence

ONGOING
Anand Sweets has launched Aamotsav, their limited edition of sweets made with mangoes. These include aamras, mango rabdi and Indian mithais such as kalakand enriched with real mango chunks, sandesh, kacha gola, rasgullas and mango petha. These sweets are made using alphonso, raspuri, dussehri and langra mangoes.
Available at all Anand Sweets outlets.

Summer in a jar

ONGOING
Magnolia Bakery's summer specials are all about sundaes and desserts in jars. These ice creams come with indulgent toppings. One such is the Chocolate Lover's Loaded Jar that brings rich chocolate ice cream, double fudge brownies and whipped cream together, and tops it off with a chocolate chunk cookie.
At all Magnolia Bakery outlets in the city.

Plate it!

ONGOING
Sawari has introduced a multi-course menu that includes soups, chaats and thalis as well as vegetarian and non-vegetarian mains that include desi Chinese starters, rice and noodles, purani dilli ke gol gappe, dahi bhalla, samosa chaat and raj kachori among others.
Available on weekdays between noon and 4pm at Sawari, Hennur Bagalur main road.

Quick and casual cuppa

EATING OUT

Anagha Maareesha

The 'fast' in Fast Coffee stands for Fair and Sustainable Trade. As the name suggests, the organisation's mission is to promote sustainability and support local communities. It is started by couple Puja Soomanna and her husband Soomanna MM, who are from the B2B coffee industry. They also own the luxury coffee shop, HumbleBean Coffee in Indiranagar. And the new coffee shop, Fast Coffee is the latest to open in the heart of Koramangala.

The cafe has an industrial and modern vibe. The grey concrete is dotted with accents of blue, like the logo of the company. I take a peek at the bakery counter and sit down for a chat with the founders.

On the double Fast Coffee has a range of coffees and quick bites. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fast Coffee, Koramangala 6th Block
Ph: *9164118577*
Hits: Kaya toast
Misses: Korean bun
Cost for two ₹500

Why not single estate?

The idea behind the coffee shop is to throw a spotlight on small and medium sized coffee farmers. Whereas many cafes focus on the beans from a single estate, Fast Coffee believes that the smaller farmers lose out in this model. "We source coffees from farmers growing coffee from all regions of India. Specialty coffee is only two percent of our produce. Where we wanted to add value was for the 98% of the traders," Puja tells me. "India grows very good coffee because of our topography, but post-harvest treatment of coffee is where we lose out in international standards." The company educates farmers about improving their produce post-harvest.

All the coffee used in the cafe is naturally dried; there are no processes such as barrel washing used here, which according to the duo, is not sustainable. "These processes are also expensive, so a small and medium farmer cannot afford it. It is restricted to a small well-to-do segment." They have on board more than 500 farmers, from regions such as Palani, Coorg and Nagaland. They work with the farmers directly and control the entire supply chain.

So, what is on the menu?

Whereas HumbleBean is all about coffee pairings and French pastries, Fast Coffee is a more of a quick and casual affair. I try two coffees - an Americano, to get the taste of the coffee, and a hot mocha, for something more indulgent. The Americano is bold, and fruity. The mocha is comfortingly warm, creamy and sweet; what I needed on the crisp morning. Fast Coffee has kombuchas, cold brew lemonade and Hojicha green tea latte, if you want to try something different.

Coming to the food, they offer an assortment of baked goods and sandwiches. I spot a favourite of mine, kaya toast. The kaya, made in house, is velvety. The potato and caramelised onion Danish is wrapped in warm and flaky pastry. If you feel like something more substantial, try the pesto sandwich. Mine is made with spongy focaccia bread, fresh pesto, and crunchy vegetables. They also have muffins, croissants, and the crowd puller, Korean buns.

Fast Coffee plans to launch other outlets, Jayanagar being the next one. Koramangala is a competitive market, with many specialty coffee shops; it is to be seen how the brand will fare against these.

Off to the next level DM Purnesh, President of the Specialty Coffee Association of India (below), a participant at the event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Coffee in the limelight

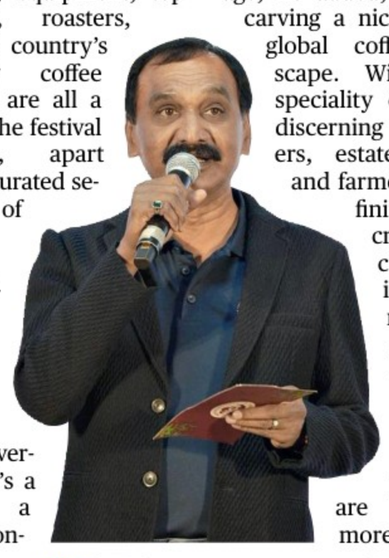
Prabalika M Borah

The recently concluded India International Coffee Festival (IICF) 2025, organised by the Specialty Coffee Association of India (SCAI) with support from the Coffee Board of India, was held in Bengaluru.

The aim of the festival was to bring together India's top brewers, baristas, coffee connoisseurs, and home brewers to celebrate everything coffee – from skills and innovation to latte art, beans, and brewing equipment.

Competitions are a major highlight of the festival, with events such as the National Barista Championship (NBC), National Latte Art Championship, National Brewers Cup (NBrC), and the grand finale of the National Filter Coffee Championship on the cards.

DM Purnesh, President of SCAI, said, "Entertainment, interactive experiences, and engaging discussions on coffee, flavours, equipment, top growers, roasters, and the country's evolving coffee culture, are all a part of the festival package, apart from a curated selection of food stalls and lifestyle brands. Coffee is no longer just a beverage – it's a hobby, a social connector, and an art form. The rise in home brewers and interest in speciality coffee is testament to this shift."



Reflecting on coffee as both a bean and a beverage, he added, "India is carving a niche in the global coffee landscape. With more speciality cafes and discerning consumers, estate owners and farmers are refining their craft. Coffee cultivation is now more focused, and post-harvest fermentation processes are becoming more nuanced –helping Indian speciality coffee stand out in international markets."

"India's potential in the coffee industry is significant. We contribute to around 40% of global coffee demand. That's why estates and farmers are now paying closer attention, not just to the yield (the cherry), but also to the processing methods that follow. We've reached a point where a single bean can produce several flavour profiles, tailored by the roaster and the brewer to suit a drinker's individual preferences," adds Purnesh.

When asked about brewing trends, he said, "Home brewers are a fast-growing community. People now have not just liquor bars at home, but also discerning coffee bars. Home brewers are essentially the mixologists of the coffee world."

He also highlighted the importance of coffee traceability. "The way coffee is distributed has changed. Traceability ensures transparency throughout the supply chain. It allows consumers to verify origin, quality, and ethical practices, and it helps roasters and brewers understand the unique flavour characteristics imparted by different estates."

Shaji N. Karun, auteur and creator of images that speak, passes away

He was known for directing acclaimed films such as *Piravi* and *Vanaprastham* and cranking the camera for classics such as *Kummatty* and *Panchavadippalam*; no stranger to the world stage, he has won honours in Cannes three times

S.R. Praveen
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Visual storyteller: In over five decades, Shaji N. Karun made six films and did cinematography for about 30 films. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prolific is a word one would not associate with film-maker and cinematographer Shaji N. Karun, who passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday at the age of 73, after a prolonged battle with cancer. In over five decades, he made only six films and did cinematography for close to 30 films. But, almost every time he cranked the camera, everlasting images were born, deeply moving stories were told and the films won accolades on the world stage.

In G. Aravindan's *Kanchana Sita* (1977), one of his first major works as a cinematographer, he had to make the images speak, for the characters had hardly any lines to utter. It was the beginning of a fruitful partnership, which reached its pinnacle in *Kummatty* (1979).

He also forged a memorable partnership with K.G. George in the 1980s, especially in capturing the complicated bridge collapse sequence in the 1984 film *Panchavadippalam* and in portraying the film industry's dark underbelly in *Lekhayude Maranam Oru Flashback* (1983). He shot M.T. Vasudevan Nair's *Panchagni* and Padmarajan's *Koodevide* as well as *Arappatta Kettiya Gramathil*, along with Venu.

After over a decade as a cinematographer, he made his directorial debut with *Piravi* (1988). The film became a landmark for Malayalam as well as Indian cinema, winning the Camera d'Or at Cannes and the Silver Leopard Award at the Locarno Festival.

Cinematic themes

A deep sense of sorrow ran as a common theme through most of his films. His second film *Swaham* (1994) was chosen for the Palme d'Or competition at Cannes. Shaji scored a hattrick at Cannes when *Vanaprastham* (1999) was chosen to compete in the Un Certain Regard category.

The National Award-winning *Kutty Srank* (2010) turned into an interesting experiment with multiple narratives. His later works *Swapaanam* (2013) and *Oolu* (2018) did not quite manage to touch the heights attained by his first four films.

His last public appearance was to receive the J.C. Daniel Award, the Kerala government's honour for lifelong contributions to cinema, two weeks ago.

Telangana CM meets senior leader over talks with Maoists

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

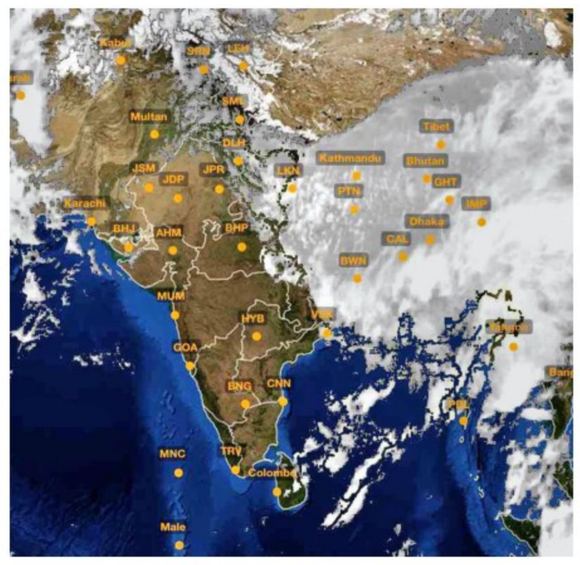
A day after the Peace Committee members met Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and sought his intervention for a ceasefire on Operation Kagar, he went to the residence of senior Congress leader K. Jana Reddy on Monday to discuss the issue with him.

Mr. Jana Reddy, as the Home Minister, was the key person who held talks with the then People's War Group (PWG) (now Maoists) in October 2004 when the Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy government was in power in the combined Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Jana Reddy led the historic talks on behalf of the State government, and that was the first time when the Naxal leaders appeared in public in response to the government's offer to hold talks for ensuring peace at the peak of the Naxalite movement.

The Chief Minister had assured the Peace Committee, who met him at his residence on Sunday, that he would meet Mr. Jana Reddy to discuss the issue. The Committee members, including its convenor Justice Chandrakumar, Prof. Haragopal, Prof. Anwar Khan, Durga Prasad, among others, urged the Chief Minister to discuss ceasefire with the Centre. Mr. Revanth Reddy had responded to their plea stating that the Congress always viewed the Naxals problem not only as a law and order issue but also as a social issue.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rain likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Odisha. Thunderstorms with gusty winds likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.6	27.0	Kozhikode	—	36.5	28.5
Ahmedabad	—	44.0	25.7	Kurnool	2	39.0	25.4
Aizawl	—	31.5	21.0	Lucknow	—	36.9	24.0
Allahabad	—	39.2	22.9	Madurai	—	36.5	25.1
Bengaluru	—	33.8	23.6	Mangaluru	—	34.1	24.0
Bhopal	—	41.2	22.4	Mumbai	—	33.5	26.8
Bhubaneswar	—	37.4	26.5	Mysuru	—	34.8	22.0
Chandigarh	—	38.5	23.6	New Delhi	—	40.4	23.2
Chennai	—	34.2	28.8	Patna	5	30.0	22.9
Coimbatore	—	37.1	25.6	Port Blair	0.2	32.2	26.1
Dehradun	—	35.8	19.6	Puducherry	—	34.4	27.8
Gangtok	43	16.5	11.6	Pune	—	42.6	24.7
Goa	—	37.0	27.0	Raipur	14	38.4	22.2
Guwahati	11	28.0	19.5	Ranchi	—	32.8	21.2
Hubballi	—	40.0	23.0	Shillong	3	21.4	15.3
Hyderabad	—	37.1	25.5	Shimla	—	29.8	18.2
Imphal	11.2	27.1	18.5	Srinagar	—	28.8	8.6
Jaipur	—	42.0	26.2	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	33.2	25.7
Kochi	—	33.0	26.2	Tiruchi	—	38.1	27.0
Kohima	—	20.6	16.6	Vijayawada	—	38.2	25.4
Kolkata	—	34.5	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	35.2	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.74	..16	52	... 154	...129	
Bengaluru	...9	..47	81	 96	.....—	
Chennai	.15	..16	46	 27	43	
Delhi	.34	123	80	... 263	...362	
Hyderabad	...6	..72	22	 77	65	
Kolkata	...6	..46	27	 98	93	
Lucknow	...4	..28	46	... 209	...204	
Mumbai	...8	..10	..5	 31	...291	
Pune	...8	..47	79	... 109	...106	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..25	..7	 30	58	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 295 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Excise team questions actors Shine, Bhasi in hybrid ganja case

The Hindu Bureau
ALAPPUZHA

Actors Shine Tom Chacko and Sreenath Bhasi appeared before the excise team probing the seizure of hybrid ganja from a resort in Kerala's Alappuzha for questioning on Monday. Sowmya, a young model, also appeared the for questioning.

All three were let off after more than 10 hours of interrogation. After questioning, officials said the actors were not involved in the hybrid cannabis case.

Officials said the trio would be summoned again, if necessary.

Excise officials said that Mr. Chacko admitted to drug use and was subsequently shifted to a de-addiction centre in Thodupuzha. He will be under the surveillance of the Excise department, said an official.

Meanwhile, officials said the suspected hybrid ganja with which movie directors Khalid Rahman and Ashraf Hamsa were nabbed from a flat in Kochi recently was reportedly sourced from a supplier in the State.

Mr. Rahman and Mr. Hamsa were held with 1.50 gm of suspected hybrid ganja during a pre-dawn raid on Sunday.

Another person, Shalif Muhammad, was also arrested from the apartment that reportedly belonged to director-cum-cinematographer Sameer Thahir.

Rapper Vedan arrested for possession of 'ganja'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala rapper Vedan (Hirandas Murali) and eight others were arrested by the Hill Palace police after around 6 gm of suspected ganja was recovered from their apartment near Vytilla in Kochi on Monday afternoon. They were later released on station bail as the suspected ganja involved was of small quantity.

Hirandas Murali

Shortly afterwards, the police alerted forest range officials over a tiger claw on the singer's chain. Forest range sources said he would be interrogated to verify whether hunting or trading was involved.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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Sri. Rajender Kumar Kataria IAS
Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department

Sri. Pommala Sunil Kumar IAS
Revenue Commissioner, Revenue Department, Bengaluru

Distribution Ceremony of Appointment Orders to 1000 Newly Recruited Village Administrative Officers
Distribution of 4000 Laptops
Launch of Digital Land Records Distribution

April 29, 2025, at 11:00 AM Venue: Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha

-: Inaugurated by :-

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

-: Distinguished Guests :-

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Minister for Finance and Corporate Affair, Government of India

Smt. Shobha Karandlaje
Hon'ble Minister for Steel, Coal, Mines and Middle Class Welfare and Parliamentary Affairs Secretary, Government of India

-: Honorable Presence :-

Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka

Sri. Basavaraj S. Horatti
Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Council

Sri. U.T. Khader
Hon'ble Speaker, Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Sri Krishna Byre Gowda
Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Government of Karnataka

-: Chairperson :-

Sri. Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Legislative Constituency

All Honorable State Ministers, Members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, Chairpersons of Corporations and Boards, and all elected representatives.

The Hon'ble Revenue Minister, **Sri. Krishna Byre Gowda** is distributing laptops to the Village Administrative Officers.

TO UPHOLD AND PROTECT THE SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY, AND INTEGRITY OF INDIA.

Not strong enough

The UNSC Statement on Pahalgam attack appears watered down

The UN Security Council's statement on Friday, condemning "in the strongest terms" the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, was necessary, but inadequate. According to the statement, which expressed condolences to India, and to Nepal which lost one citizen, the members of the Security Council, that include Pakistan as an elected, non-permanent member this year, "reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security". The statement also spoke of the need to bring the perpetrators and their sponsors to justice. However, the UNSC did not name The Resistance Front (TRF) that initially claimed responsibility for the attack, and did not refer to the group's linkages to a UNSC-designated terror outfit, the LeT. Nor did it expressly speak of cooperation with the Government of India, as it had in the past. Finally, the statement made no mention of the terrorists' intent to target non-Muslims – an abhorrent act aimed at instigating communal tensions. A comparison with previous such statements would make it clear that the language was "watered down" given that Pakistan is a member of the Council (2025-26), and had China's support. China has in the past sought to veto statements critical of Pakistan. It is also disappointing that the statement, which was negotiated by France's envoy, the current UNSC President, did not bring stronger inputs from others on the Council including the U.S., Russia and the U.K.

As the government and security forces discuss counter-terror operations within Jammu and Kashmir to apprehend the terrorists and possible military options across the border, India's next option may be to bring a more strongly worded statement to the UN General Assembly, as various countries have done in the Ukraine and Gaza conflicts. The government would no doubt be preparing to have those terrorists it has identified from the attack and the TRF itself, designated by the UNSC, much the same way as it was able to bring the designation of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as a terrorist after the Pulwama attack. In addition, India could build its case at the Financial Action Task Force, which put Pakistan on a "greylist" from 2012-15 and 2018-22, and revive its plans to pass a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism at the United Nations. On the bilateral front, expecting assistance from Pakistan has been a dead-end in the past, despite its promises after Mumbai (2008), Pathankot (2016), and Pulwama (2019). Given the state of bilateral relations and the lack of diplomatic engagement, this is even less likely. Only a multi-pronged effort on the global stage, and the patience it showed with the extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the U.S., will ensure that India is able to follow all the threads in bringing those responsible for this brutal attack to justice and establish a durable peace.

Better sense prevails

Those in public life should uphold the dignity of the office they hold

The resignation of Tamil Nadu Electricity Minister V. Senthilbalaji and Forest Minister K. Ponmudy from the Cabinet on Sunday, after adverse remarks of the Supreme Court and Madras High Court on different issues, is a matter of relief to the advocates of morality and propriety in public life. Their continuance in power would have caused great embarrassment to the DMK government, led by M.K. Stalin. Mr. Senthilbalaji's exit came on the eve of the expiry of the deadline fixed by the Court last week to choose between his post and his freedom while Mr. Ponmudy's departure came as the High Court, while directing the Registry to take up a *suo motu* writ petition regarding a derogatory speech delivered by him, observed that he had, *prima facie*, misused the liberty granted to him by the Court which had stayed his conviction as well as the sentence in a corruption case. Everyone in public life should uphold the dignity of the office they hold. Mr. Ponmudy evidently overlooked the importance of this principle. Mr. Senthilbalaji is on a sticky wicket, as the proceedings against him – both in respect of allegedly receiving kickbacks for jobs in the State transport corporations during his earlier tenure as Transport Minister (2011-15) in the Jayalalithaa Cabinet and money laundering – are in progress after the Court's nod about two years ago.

Corruption may not have been viewed by some as an issue that bothers the common man. Such a view may have been grounded in the fact that many politicians, accused of corruption, are successful in electoral politics and know how to stay in power. But, this perception cannot deter courts of law from proceeding against those involved in acts of corruption. Rightly, in September 2022, the Court held that "corruption by a public servant is an offence against the State and society at large". At that time, the Court ordered the restoration of a criminal complaint quashed by the Madras High Court against Mr. Senthilbalaji and others accused of taking bribes in exchange for jobs in the Metropolitan Transport Corporation. Even though there are many anti-corruption activists, it appears that under the given circumstances, only the courts of law can effectively act against those in power for corruption. At times, interventions by courts against corruption might appear as acts of judicial overreach. But the episode concerning Mr. Senthilbalaji and Mr. Ponmudy, underscores the point that the top political executive in any State and at the Centre should show zero tolerance towards corruption.

The post of Deputy Speaker is not symbolic or optional

Vinod Bhanu

is Executive Director of the Centre for Legislative Research and Advocacy (CLRA), New Delhi

Ravindra Garimella

is the former Joint Secretary (Legislation), Lok Sabha, and currently Secretary to the Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha

The Office of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is not merely a ceremonial seat but also a constitutional imperative. Mandated under Article 93 of the Constitution of India, this role is not just supplementary to the Speaker's. It is vital for the uninterrupted functioning of the lower House of Parliament. However, in recent years, the Deputy Speaker's position has fallen into unusual and troubling neglect.

Article 93 clearly states: "The House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker...."

The phrasing "as soon as may be" implies urgency, and not discretion. The Deputy Speaker's role is not optional; the Constitution places this office on an equal footing with the Speaker in terms of its necessity to the parliamentary structure. Article 94 states that the Deputy Speaker remains in office until they resign, are removed, or cease to be a Member of Parliament.

The intent is clear: the Lok Sabha must never function without a second-in-command, a constitutional safeguard to ensure continuity, stability, and institutional balance.

The roots of this office can be traced back to the colonial period. The position originated in the Central Legislative Assembly under British rule, where it was known as the Deputy President. The first to hold the office was Sachidanand Sinha in 1921. By the time India achieved independence in 1947, the Deputy Speaker had already become an institutional fixture in legislative governance.

Post-Independence, during the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) sessions, a deliberate decision was made to maintain the role even before the Constitution was fully adopted in 1950. The first elected Deputy Speaker of India's Lok Sabha was M.A. Ayyangar, a respected parliamentarian who also served as the acting Speaker following the sudden death of Speaker G.V. Mavalankar in 1956. His appointment during a crisis established a precedent for the Deputy Speaker's importance as a ready and capable replacement.

Relevance in parliamentary practice

While the Speaker is the presiding authority of the House, no Speaker can physically preside over every session in its entirety. As noted by constitutional expert S.C. Kashyap in *Dada Saheb Mavalankar: Father of Lok Sabha*, the Speaker cannot chair proceedings for hours on end. The Deputy Speaker steps in during such absences, ensuring that proceedings continue without procedural disruption.

But the Deputy Speaker's role extends beyond simply "filling in". They can chair important sessions, preside over specific committees, and even handle sensitive debates that require a neutral and trusted authority. Notably, the Deputy Speaker, like the Speaker, is expected to act impartially once elected, regardless of party affiliation.

Historically, this office has also held symbolic importance in fostering bipartisan respect. A long-standing convention – though not legally binding – has been to offer the post of Deputy Speaker to the Opposition. This not only balanced power within the House but also helped to build trust and cooperation across the aisle. It has been a vital practice in reinforcing the non-partisan ethos that the Speaker's office aims to uphold.

A growing constitutional vacuum

Despite its clear constitutional basis and historic continuity, the Deputy Speaker's office has remained vacant for the entire term of the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-2024). As of this writing, the 18th Lok Sabha, formed after the 2024 general election, has also yet to elect a Deputy Speaker. This is not a procedural lapse; it is a constitutional anomaly.

Never before in India's parliamentary history has the office remained vacant for such extended periods of time. The Constitution does not prescribe a rigid timeline for the election, but the phrase "as soon as may be" cannot be interpreted as "whenever convenient". The delay – now running into multiple years – raises fundamental questions about adherence to constitutional mandates and respect for parliamentary norms.

Leaving the Deputy Speaker's position vacant undermines the institutional safeguards established by the Constitution. It centralises procedural power solely within the Speaker and the ruling party, eliminating a vital counterbalance. In an emergency, such as the Speaker's resignation, death, or removal, the lack of a designated second-in-command could lead to confusion or even a temporary leadership vacuum in the House.

The delay also signals a broader disregard for parliamentary conventions – especially the unwritten rule of offering the post to the Opposition. While not mandatory, this practice has historically promoted inclusivity and moderation in parliamentary functioning. Failing to fill the post is not just a passive oversight; it is an active sidelining of consensus politics.

The argument that there is "no urgency" to appoint a Deputy Speaker runs counter to the entire ethos of constitutional democracy. The framers of the Constitution foresaw the importance of redundancy in leadership. Positions such as the Deputy Speaker are not afterthoughts – they are foundational to the system's resilience.

Moreover, restoring the practice of appointing a Deputy Speaker from the Opposition can help rebuild institutional credibility. In an era of increasing polarisation, such a gesture would not only honour democratic convention but also inject a degree of balance into legislative proceedings.

Need for legislative reform?

The ongoing vacuum raises a larger question: should the constitutional language be tightened to set a mandatory time frame for electing the Deputy Speaker? A specific deadline – for instance, within 60 days of the first sitting of the new Lok Sabha – could close this loophole of delay and warrant compliance.

Alternatively, a statutory mechanism could be introduced to allow the President to initiate the process within a time frame, upon advice from the Prime Minister or the Speaker. Either way, the current ambiguity is untenable in a functioning democracy.

The Office of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is neither symbolic nor optional. It is a constitutionally sanctioned position designed to uphold the integrity and the continuity of legislative functioning. Disregarding it violates the Constitution's letter and undermines the spirit of democratic balance.

It is time for Parliament to reaffirm its respect for constitutional norms and institutional integrity. Electing a Deputy Speaker is not just a formality – it is a test of the House's commitment to rule-based governance. India's Parliament must not fail this test any longer.

That the post remains vacant is a constitutional anomaly and an active sidelining of consensus politics

Reflections on Pahalgam, the fight against terror

Apsara Reddy

is official spokesperson, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

In the serenity of Pahalgam, where green meadows once hosted school picnics and innocent games of cricket, blood has been spilled again. The terrorist ambush, targeting innocent people, is not just another headline in Kashmir's long and pained history.

It is a voice – one that asks us to stop treating terrorism as just a border issue. It is one that begins in the mind, a mind that is unemployed, uneducated, and unexposed to the world beyond an echo chamber.

What turns a young boy from a small town into someone capable of pulling a trigger and attacking civilians? The answer is not always about radical preachers or foreign handlers. Sometimes, it is because of a void created by poverty, poor schooling, broken homes, and communities that never intervened when they should have.

Where the focus must be

In all the political noise, including tweets of condemnation, blame games, and "high-level reviews", we forget that there is an important battlefield: the classroom. And beyond it, the neighbourhood.

If we want to truly fight terror, we must start by reimagining our education system and expanding our grassroots vigilance.

This fight starts with the curriculum. We need more than math and history. We need moral courage, empathy and stories of shared humanity. Schools should introduce conflict resolution, peace-building, and media literacy early on. Children must be taught how to disagree without violence and how to challenge dangerous narratives with critical thinking.

The curriculum should include peace studies from middle school on; monthly story sessions on interfaith harmony and diversity, and practical ethics through community service projects.

But this is something that cannot be left to teachers alone. Governments must get more involved at the local level, beyond policing, into prevention.

Imagine every district having a youth outreach council as a joint force of social workers, teachers, local police, mental health professionals, and (former) offenders who are now mentors. These councils can identify deviant behaviour early; intervene with counselling and guidance, and track absenteeism, peer group patterns, and sudden shifts in behaviour.

There must be adequate budgetary allocation for intervention camps for 'at-risk' youth. These camps should not be punitive but rehabilitative. Having sports, vocational training, theatre therapy and supervised social engagement at such camps can reset a young mind before it is too late.

For example, in Telangana, tribal welfare schools host "good touch-bad touch" workshops and empathy-building sessions every year, with great success. In Kerala, panchayats work with anganwadis and primary schools to track youth dropout rates and mental health patterns. Why not scale these models to conflict-sensitive regions such as Kashmir?

Governments must provide digital de-radicalisation tools not just through surveillance but also education. There should be mobile-friendly platforms that teach media literacy, conspiracy theories must end, and children must have access to verified information.

And, finally, there should be funds given to those who are closest to youth – school principals, sports coaches, and local non-governmental organisation workers. Empower them with training and resources, not just paperwork.

The question is not just how we stop the next terror attack. It is about how we stop a teenager from becoming tomorrow's news.

Having a good teacher, mentor

Pahalgam has shown us the consequences of neglecting emotional education and community vigilance. The cure to extremism is not always a drone strike or a military operation. Sometimes, it means having a good teacher. A timely mentor. A government that does not just build roads, but also outlines a road map for its young.

Let us give our children pens instead of guns. And classrooms instead of commandos.

Because peace is not just a treaty. It is a syllabus.

The terror attack has highlighted the consequences of neglecting emotional education and community vigilance

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The responses

The Prime Minister's message at a rally in Bihar and later, in his *Mann Ki Baat*, is loud and precise on fighting terrorism. India's initial and measured responses are absolutely resolute. Though there have been punitive strikes by India which did establish some deterrence, the Pahalgam massacre seems to indicate an erosion in this. Terrorism appears to be a part of the constitution of a hostile neighbour. Diplomatic moves that attempt the global isolation of a terror state are indicative of an assertive India. Nevertheless, it is not certain whether these measures alone will be enough to send a strong message as Pakistan keeps harping on 'non-state actor involvement' in terrorism.

S. Seshadri,
Chennai

Dubious

Though Pakistan has 'offered' to help probe the Pahalgam attack, India cannot trust Pakistan. It may be recalled that after every major terror attack in India, Pakistan did offer assistance only to deny involvement, delay investigations, or protect key conspirators. Even after valid proof of Pakistan's involvement in the 2008 Mumbai attacks, Pakistan dragged its feet and has shielded the masterminds. Pakistan often uses offers of cooperation to manage international pressure, but does little to dismantle the terror infrastructure.

Gregory Fernandes,
Mumbai

Government's steps

The Government of India recently issued an advisory banning TV channels, social media influencers, and others from sharing live coverage or sensitive footage during security operations. But in reality, this directive has been blatantly ignored. This is an era of camera-dominant news coverage, and the movements of armed forces and strategies must remain absolutely confidential. No footage, no leaks — not even to so-called 'government-friendly' media outlets (Inside pages, "Skirmishes continue at LoC weighs response to Pahalgam attack", April 28).

N. Nagarajan,
Secunderabad

In the wake of the terror attack, there are some in the establishment who are indulging in sabre rattling. Some of the statements from even the top Ministers range from 'We will hunt them till the ends of the earth' to 'Pakistan will not get a drop of Indus water'. The fact is that all this is empty rhetoric and is being done to impress gullible minds. To say that Pakistan will not get a drop of Indus water is a threat that cannot be practically implemented.

S. Kamat,
Mysuru

Secured tourism

The incident has sparked questions about the past and the future of the Kashmir issue, and a permanent solution. One thing is clear — terror groups will use any vacuum to carry out heinous activities. Perhaps the government needs to start a high-security tourism package to Kashmir, where tourists will have to book slots. Each group can also have security cover.
Apart from enabling the defence forces/security personnel to keep an eye on things, it would also send out a message to the common man that the Indian government is trying its best to protect his livelihood.

Anamitro Biswas,
Durg, Chhattisgarh

The terror fight

As citizens of a vibrant democracy, we must remember that the fight against terror must be waged within the framework of the law. Swift action should not compromise constitutional safeguards or innocent lives. Justice must be served without undermining the very principles that define our nation. Strength and sensitivity must go hand in hand.

Abhirami G. Nair,
Ernakulam, Kerala

While strong diplomatic measures against Pakistan are necessary, India must avoid falling into a tit-for-tat spiral that benefits no one. The priority must be to catch the perpetrators and protect Kashmiris from backlash across the country. They are not outsiders but citizens, equally scarred by terrorism. National unity cannot be sacrificed at the altar of political messaging. India's greatest strength lies in upholding the rule of law and a calm, credible pursuit of truth. Retaliation may offer momentary satisfaction, but restraint, guided by facts, will serve lasting national security.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

IPL 2025

It is disheartening to see the performance of certain IPL teams this season, failing even to put up a decent fight. From next year on, the number of participating teams should be increased and qualifying rounds introduced. Another glaring issue has been the poor selection of players during the auction. Accountability must be fixed on selectors by the franchise management. It is also unethical to retain some players merely based on their past fame in a bid to generate revenues while disregarding their current form and fitness.

Lalgudi Muralidharan,
Lalgudi, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

India's urban future is at a crossroads

Alok Kumar Mishra

Professor, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad

Pavan Kumar Thimmavajjala

Research Associate, School of Economics, University of Hyderabad

As summer intensifies, Indian cities are struggling with water shortages and rising electricity demand and temperatures. Reports from Bengaluru and Hyderabad show a spike in water tanker bookings while power cuts loom due to increased air-conditioner usage. These annual struggles raise a pressing question – are our cities, where more than 30% of Indians live, prepared for climate extremes and rapid urbanisation?

Urbanisation, while bringing about growth and opportunities, also paves the way for increased pollution, congestion, and environmental impacts, which often hit the underprivileged the hardest. Sustainable Futures Collective, in their report, 'Is India Ready for a Warming World?' (2025), find that there is much more to be done regarding long-term planning for climate change in cities. Concerns about how our cities are handling the urban heat island effect have also been raised often in Parliament. Such stark ground realities underscore the pressing challenges our cities face in pursuing Sustainable Development Goal-11 (SDG-11): to create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban environments by 2030.

Do indices capture reality?

While global SDG-11 indicators exist, India lacks city-level tools for effective tracking. NITI Aayog's SDG Urban Index ranks 56 cities on 77 indicators, but its SDG-11 component is limited to four: Swachh Survekshan, road deaths, PMAY-U housing, and waste treatment. The Ease of Living Index covers 111 cities but lacks a comprehensive SDG-11 assessment.

International indices such as Mercer's and the Economist's Resilient Cities Index offer insights but miss Indian ground realities. The absence of a focused SDG-11 index hinders policymakers from identifying genuinely safe, sustainable, and inclusive cities, creating a policy-research gap.

To bridge this gap and supplement the indices used by NITI Aayog with a more comprehensive set of indices, our latest research constructs four distinct indices – one for each pillar of SDG-11 wherein we ranked 10 major cities (Hyderabad, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Surat) based on performance across select indicators for each index. Nine indicators were used for safety, 19 for inclusivity, and 15 for resilience and sustainability indexes. The parameters used for defining the indicators were borrowed from the United Nations' definitions of the same in the urban context. Data was sourced from a wide range of datasets such as Census 2011, Road Transport Yearbook, Indian Forest Survey, National Crime Research Bureau, Periodic Labour Force Survey, National Family Health Survey-5, Reserve Bank of India, India Meteorological Department's Climatological Tables, and Ola Mobility Institute's Ease of Moving Index 2022. We employed a novel method known as the Shannon Entropy Weighting technique (borrowed from Multi-Criteria Decision-Making modelling) to generate weights for the indices as it provides a more objective approach to weighting.

The results provide key insights into SDG-11 implementation across cities. Among the 10 major cities analysed, Ahmedabad ranked first in inclusivity, while Jaipur ranked the lowest. Bengaluru appeared to be the safest city, whereas Kolkata ranked lowest in safety. Surat led in sustainability, while Kolkata lagged behind. In terms of climate resilience, Chennai ranked first, while Jaipur was the least resilient. A comparison with NITI Aayog's SDG-11 rankings showed that cities tagged as front-runners and performers fared poorly in our indices.

Variations in the inclusivity index reflect disparities in social and economic participation, emphasising the need for equitable access to opportunities in urban planning and broadening the idea of inclusivity. Differences in safety rankings suggest that while some cities benefit from vigorous law enforcement, others require better crime prevention and urban safety strategies. Sustainability rankings reveal uneven progress in environmental planning, waste management, and pollution control, stressing the need for comprehensive sustainability policies. Disparities in resilience highlight gaps in disaster preparedness and recovery. Notably, the Annual Survey of Indian City Systems 2023 by Janaagraha reported that only 16 cities had a 'city sustainability plan', while 17 had 'city resilience strategies'. This indicates significant gaps in the groundwork needed for SDG-11 to make substantial progress in India.

The road ahead

India's urban future is at a crossroads. Cities must establish better mechanisms for tracking SDG-11 at the urban local body (ULB) level. While some States and Union Territories have adopted district-level monitoring frameworks, urban local bodies must follow suit. Integrated Command and Control Centres, developed under the Smart Cities Mission, should be leveraged to collect real-time data and enhance urban planning and development processes. Additionally, as almost a third of urban residents are poor, addressing their needs is critical. India still relies on Census 2011 data, leading to severe underestimation of urban poverty. A periodic Urban Poor Quality of Living Survey at the State level is necessary to bridge this gap.

Each city (small and large) faces unique challenges, requiring localised governance, better planning, and city-specific strategies. Addressing these differences through data-backed, city-specific policies is crucial for a more equitable urban future.

Each city faces unique challenges, requiring localised governance, better planning, and city-specific strategies

There is little reason for the NDA to worry

The political repercussions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act may be limited

STATE OF PLAY

Sanjay Kumar
Krishangi Sinha

The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, has ignited controversy across India, particularly among Muslim leaders. It has triggered resignations from some Janata Dal (United) leaders, causing unrest within the ruling coalition of the JD(U) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Bihar and at the Centre. With Bihar set to go to polls later this year, this unrest raises questions about the electoral implications for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

While there is a sizeable number of Muslim voters in Bihar, who hold the key for electoral success in many Assembly constituencies, the fear that the Waqf Act could adversely affect the electoral prospects of the NDA in Bihar is unfounded since the JD(U)-BJP alliance has never been the choice of Muslim voters.

According to the 2011 Census, Muslims make up around 18% of Bihar's population. In about 40 Assembly constituencies, Muslims account for over 25% of the electorate, with another 20 seats having 20-25% Muslim voters. In some constituencies such as Amour and Kochadhaman, Muslim voters exceed 70%. Overall, Muslims significantly influence 60-70 of Bihar's 243 Assembly seats. A unified Muslim vote could sway outcomes in these areas.

However, historically, the JD(U)-BJP alliance has failed to gain substantial support from the community. The only exception was in the 2015 elections when the JD(U) allied with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress. Despite Nitish Kumar being the champion of Pasmanda Muslims, he has not been able to attract the Muslim vote because of his party's alliance with the BJP at the Centre and in the State.

Evidence from the Lokniti-CSDS post-poll survey suggests that it is the RJD-led Mahagathbandan that has cornered a large chunk of the Muslim vote over the last three decades. During the Assembly election in February 2005, 40% of Muslims voted for the RJD-led alliance; 4% voted for the BJP-led alliance, which included the JD(U); and 13% for the Congress. A significant share of Muslim voters (34%) voted for other smaller parties and independents. This may have been due to some disenchantment among Muslim voters following 15 years of the RJD and its allies being in power. There was a fractured verdict in that election.

There was no significant shift in the Muslim vote during the Assembly election held in October that year, with 9% of Muslim voters voting for the NDA and 51% voting for the RJD-led alliance. It is important to mention that during this election, the Congress was an ally of the RJD, which was not the case during the Assembly election held in February 2005.

During the 2010 Assembly election, the NDA, which included Nitish Kumar's JD(U) and the BJP, saw an increase in support from Muslims (21%). In contrast, support for the RJD was divided, with 32% backing the party and 22% supporting the Congress, which did not ally with the RJD during that election.

During the 2015 Assembly election, the Mahagathbandhan comprising the RJD, the JD(U), and Congress received support from 69% of Muslims, while the NDA received support from only 6% of Muslims. The rift between the BJP and the JD(U) in 2013, and the alliance between the JD(U) and the RJD, may have helped the JD(U) gain credibility among Muslim voters.

In 2020, the JD(U) rejoined the NDA. The Muslim vote for the NDA remained minimal, with only 5% of Muslims supporting it. The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan received 76% of the Muslim vote, a significant increase compared to 2015.

This clearly suggests that the NDA comprising the JD(U) and the BJP as the main partners has never been the beneficiary of the Muslim vote. Even if Muslims are unhappy or angry with the passing of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, it may not adversely affect the political prospects of the NDA in Bihar.

While the Waqf (Amendment) Act has undoubtedly sparked discontent among Muslims in Bihar and across India, its political repercussions in Bihar may be limited. Voting data shows that the JD (U)-BJP alliance has never been a primary choice for Muslim voters, except during the brief 2015 alliance between the RJD and Congress. Thus, while the controversy may deepen dissatisfaction, it is unlikely to significantly shift electoral dynamics in 2025 – unless other variables alter existing voting patterns.

Sanjay Kumar and Krishangi Sinha are with Lokniti-CSDS

Indians fear fake news but are less concerned about press freedom

In India, the share of people who believe that media freedom exists is higher than the share of people who believe it is important

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In India, while there is widespread anxiety about misinformation and fake news, people largely do not attribute it to government influence. Instead, a relatively large share do not mind greater state censorship, according to the latest survey by the Pew Research Center.

Survey data suggests that while distrust in fake news is high, confidence in systemic solutions such as a free press remains low. In fact, a relatively large share of respondents believes that the media is free from state censorship and supports greater state control over the press. In other words, the data indicates that many citizens view misinformation as stemming from sources such as social media, WhatsApp, or other non-governmental actors, rather than from state censorship or suppression.

In India, 65% of the respondents said that made-up news and information is a very big problem in the country. This is one of the highest rates among the 35 countries surveyed and places India among the top 10 nations where this concern is most strongly felt.

At the same time, only 68% of the respondents said that it is very or somewhat important for the media to report news without state or government censorship – the second-lowest rate among the 35 countries surveyed. In fact, 80% of the respondents believe that the media in India is currently somewhat free or completely free from state intervention. This is one of the highest rates among the countries surveyed and places India among the top 10 once again.

This dichotomy has serious implications for press freedom in India, which has been deteriorating rapidly. In 2024, India ranked 159 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index published by Reporters Without Borders. While India has consistently ranked below 100 since 2003, the situation has worsened significantly in recent years.

Chart 1 shows the share of respondents who said that made-up news and information is a very big problem in their country. In Bangladesh, South Korea, Chile, Colombia and Thailand, over 70% of the respondents felt this. In Peru, Philippines, Turkey, Greece and India, more than 65% or more of the respondents said so. The concern for fake news was lowest in Singapore, Poland, Sweden, Netherlands, and Israel.

Chart 2 shows the share of respondents who said that it is very or somewhat important for the media to report news without state or government censorship. The share was above 90% in Greece, Sweden, the U.K., and 11 other countries; between 80% and 90% in 13 countries; and between 70% and 80% in five countries. In India and Kenya, less than 70% of the respondents emphasised the need for a media free of state censorship.

Chart 3 shows the share of respondents who said that the media is currently completely/somewhat free in their country. India, Sweden, Netherlands, Philippines, Ghana, Australia, Kenya, and Thailand are the eight countries where 80% or more of the respondents said that the media is now completely or somewhat free. In Chile and Greece, less than 40% felt so.

Reading Charts 2 and 3 together offers a different perspective. India and Kenya are the only two countries where a larger share of respondents believe that the media is free (80% or more), while a smaller share (less than 70%) emphasise the importance of media freedom. In other words, in 33 of the 35 nations surveyed, there is a 'press freedom gap', which means the share of people who feel media freedom is important is greater than the share who believe it exists. In contrast, in India and Kenya, this gap is reversed.

Dangerous dichotomy

The data for the charts were taken from Pew Research Center's 'Free Expression Seen as Important Globally, but Not Everyone Thinks Their Country Has Press, Speech and Internet Freedoms' released in April 2025

Chart 1: % who say made-up news and information is a very big problem in their country

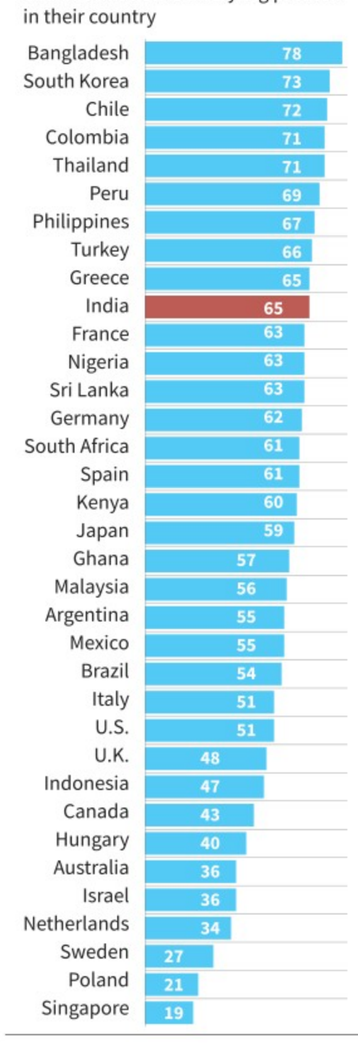


Chart 2: % who say it is very/somewhat important for the media to report without state censorship

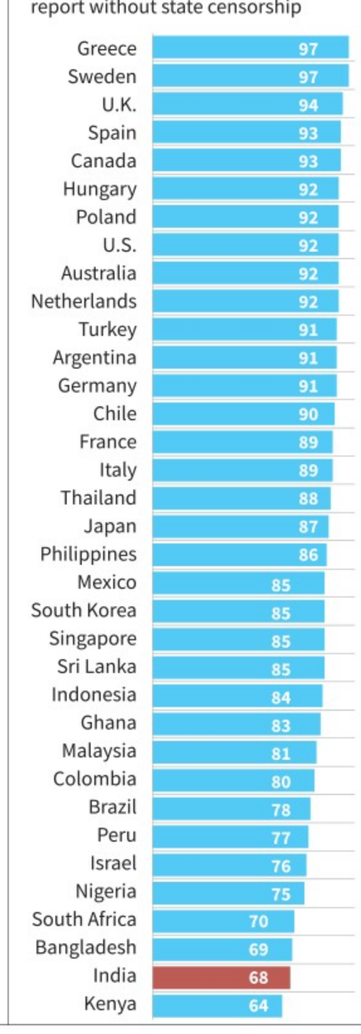
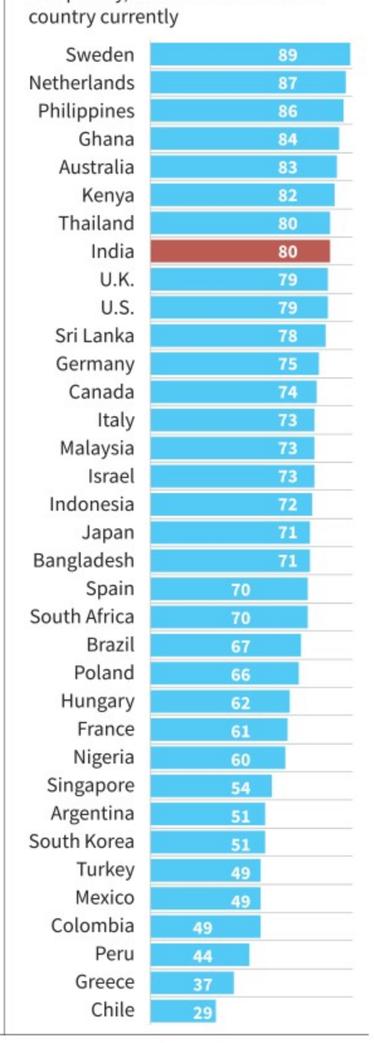


Chart 3: % who say the media is completely/somewhat free in their country currently



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1975

Emergency steps to augment water supply in Madras

Madras, April 28: The Tamil Nadu Government has decided to take a number of emergency measures to augment the water supply in Madras for mitigating the hardship caused to the people on account of the unprecedented drought.

These measures, which include tapping of new ground water sources and diversion of water used by some major industries in the Manali complex, were decided upon at a conference convened by the Chief Minister at the Secretariat this morning. It was attended by the Local Administration Minister, the Chief Secretary to Government, the Special Officer and the Commissioner of the Madras Corporation, and the Chief Engineer, PWD.

Talking to newsmen at the end of the conference, the Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, assured the citizens that the Government and the Corporation would spare no effort to alleviate their suffering and appealed to them not to get panicky over the situation.

One of the measures announced by the Chief Minister was to request the Madras Refineries and Madras Fertilizers – two large industrial units in Manali – to advance their annual maintenance shutdown so that two to three million gallons of water now consumed by them daily could be made available to the City during their closure period.

He said the Water Supply and Drainage Board would be asked to take immediate steps to sink huge wells in the Tiruvanmiyur coastal area and make available an additional one to two million gallons daily in May.

The other measures contemplated by the Government include sinking of more open wells in different parts of the City for the use of the public.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 29, 1925

American gold for Britain

New York, April 28: The Federal Reserve Bank has arranged with other banks to place two hundred million dollars worth of gold at the disposal of the Bank of England if desired, in connection with the establishment of a free gold market in Britain. It is understood that a further million will be supplied by the Morgans.

From Page One

J&K Assembly condemns terror strike

Recalling the helplessness he faced during meetings with the bereaved families of the Pahalgam victims, Mr. Abdullah said, "What apology would ever suffice?"

'The Chief Minister also highlighted the spontaneous, widespread public condemnation of the attack across J&K. "From Kathua to Kupwara, ordinary citizens raised banners and placards reading 'Not In My Name', distancing themselves from terrorism without any political prompting. A significant moment of mourning at the Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, where a two-minute silence was observed after Friday prayers – an act that carried profound meaning for every Kashmiri," he said.

'True spirit of Kashmiri hospitality'

Mr. Abdullah cited examples of ordinary Kashmiris such as a ponywala risking his life to save tourists, a humble fruit seller at Dal Lake offering free meals to stranded visitors despite his meagre earnings, and taxi drivers, hoteliers, and boatmen opening their hearts and homes to guests. "These acts represented the true spirit of Kashmiri hospitality, even in the darkest of times," he added.

Referring to the past terrorist killings of kin of legislators Shagun Parihar of the BJP, Sakina Itoo of the National Conference (NC) and Sajad Lone of the J&K Peoples Conference (JKPC), Mr. Abdullah said, "No Assembly can understand this grief better than ours."

BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition Sunil Sharma said BJP legislators sought an amendment and inserted 'Pakistan' in the resolution. "The resolution was good. The Assembly showed people stand together with the country," Mr. Sharma said.

Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir, while supporting the resolution and the Centre's initiatives aimed at safeguarding the country, suggested that there was intelligence failure in stoping this attack despite inputs. "Terrorists' language and segregation on the basis of faith was a ploy. I hope the Centre will take measures to stop such attacks in the future," Mr. Mir said.

SC declines ED's plea to bar former T.N. Minister from holding any office

The Central agency and complainant urge top court to prohibit DMK MLA Senthilbalaji from assuming position of power till completion of trial in money laundering case; Bench of Justices Oka and Masih found 'no basis' to their apprehension

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday did not entertain a plea by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to bar Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MLA V. Senthilbalaji from holding any ministerial or other "positions of power" in Tamil Nadu till the trial in a money laundering case linked to a cash-for-jobs "scam" was completed.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and A.G. Masih found "no basis in the apprehension" of the ED and the complainant, K. Vidhya Kumar, that Mr. Senthilbalaji would again return to a position of power in the State "in a month".

The court took on record a press release issued by the Tamil Nadu Governor stating that Mr. Senthilbalaji's resignation had been accepted by the Raj Bhavan. The Supreme Court last week gave Mr. Senthilbalaji an ultimatum to either choose between his post or his freedom. Mr. Senthilbalaji was appointed Tamil Nadu Minister for Electricity, Prohibition and Excise on September 29, 2024, just two days after the top court championed his right to personal liberty to grant him bail in the money laundering case.

> What would happen to my client if you [the ED] extend the trial by another 15 years? Should he be out of politics for 15 years then?
>
> **KAPIL SIBAL**
> Senior advocate appearing for V. Senthilbalaji

> If there is no bar on him from assuming any powerful position, the trial into the predicate offences will never be over. Whereas, on the other hand, a bar would only work to expedite the trial
>
> **SOLICITOR-GENERAL TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Representing the ED

The ED had moved the top court against the appointment, seeking a recall of the September 26 bail order. On December 2, the court decided to examine the narrow aspect of Mr. Senthilbalaji's appointment as Cabinet Minister and its impact on witnesses. The court had, however, refused to interfere with the bail.

On Monday, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the ED, voiced the apprehension that Mr. Senthilbalaji may again try for a shot at ministership or "some other position of power" in the State. He should be barred from assuming any position of power till the trial was concluded, the top law officer urged the court. "Otherwise, what would happen to the trial if he comes back to power after the next elections in 2026," Mr. Mehta asked.

Raising objection, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Mukul Rohatgi, along with advocate Ram Shanker, appearing for Mr. Senthilbalaji, replied with a counter-question: "What would happen to my client if you [the ED] extend the trial by another 15 years? Should he be out of politics for 15 years then?"

Mr. Sibal pointed out that even the trial in the predicate offences, which include corruption, was in its nascent stage. There were more than 2,200 accused persons and over 500 witnesses. The senior lawyer pointed out that the trial in the money laundering case would only commence after the successful completion of the trial in the predicate offences.

Mr. Mehta said the State of Tamil Nadu was prosecuting the predicate offences. He reasoned that a bar on Mr. Senthilbalaji from taking up any ministership or other powerful position would prod the State to expedite the completion of the predicate trial, which would in turn pave the way for the ED to commence the trial.

The Solicitor-General said Mr. Senthilbalaji had "substantial control over the State". He had been a Minister without portfolio while in prison. He was deliberately delaying the predicate trial. "If there is no bar on him from assuming any powerful position, the trial into the predicate offences will never be over. Whereas, on the other hand, a bar would only work to expedite the trial," Mr. Mehta argued.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for Mr. Vidhya Kumar, suggested that Mr. Senthilbalaji must be ordered to leave Tamil Nadu during the trial.

"There have been instances when senior Ministers have been asked to leave their native State while the trial was on against them. There have also been occasions when the apex court had ordered sitting Chief Ministers to not 'touch' any official files while he was accused in a case," Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

Justice Oka said if the ED had so many apprehensions, then it must file a separate application to cancel the bail. "That occasion will arise in a month. Nobody can live without power after a month," Mr. Mehta responded. He said the ED did not want to be a "laughing stock" if Mr. Senthilbalaji managed to get appointed to a high office for a second time.

Defence panel observes silence for victims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Paying tribute to the 26 persons killed in the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence observed a two-minute silence.

The committee was meeting to hold a review of resettlement policies, healthcare facilities, and other avenues for ex-servicemen.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attended the meeting.

Sources said the members did not enquire into the Pahalgam terror attack.

2016 Pathankot attack

There was a view that the panel should call for the government's internal probe on the 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, but no final call was taken.

On January 2, 2016, four militants belonging to the Islamic terrorist United Jihad Council attacked the Indian Air Force's Pathankot Airbase in Punjab, part of its Western Air Command. Eight persons, including seven security personnel, were killed in the attack.

India, France finalise deal for 26 Rafale-Ms

"The delivery of these aircraft would be completed by 2030, with the crew undergoing training in France and India," the Defence Ministry statement said.

"It also includes the setting up of production facility for Rafale fuselage as well as Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities for aircraft engine, sensors and weapons in India," the statement said, adding that the deal is expected to generate thousands of jobs and revenue for a large number of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The French Defence Minister was scheduled to visit India to sign the deal, but the visit was deferred due to personal reasons. Hence, the signing of the IGA was done by the two Ministers remotely.

The signed copies of the agreement, aircraft package supply protocol, and weapons package supply protocol were exchanged by Indian and French officials in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh at Nausena Bhawan, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. Navy Vice-Chief Vice-Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and French Ambassador in India Thoerry Mathou were also present at the event. In addition to the IGA, several associated Government-to-Business agreements were concluded.

The Indian Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers - the *INS Vikramaditya* procured from Russia and the indigenously built *INS Vikrant* commissioned in September 2022.

As per contractual terms, deliveries will begin 37 months from the date of contract and will be completed in 66 months.

JNUSU results: Left wins 3 posts, ABVP makes a mark

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Left Unity panel on Monday won three seats in the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union, while the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad won one seat, after a gap of 10 years.

Through the night, the JNU witnessed celebrations from both sides.

The post of president was won by the Left Unity's Nitish Kumar, while Manisha won the post of vice-president and Munteha the post of general secretary. This year, after a split with the Students' Federation of India (SFI), the All India Students' Association had allied with Democratic Students' Federation (DSF).

Vaibhav Meena of the ABVP won the post of joint secretary, making him the first in a decade to have won a central panel post.

SC notice to govt. on plea to regulate sexually explicit content on OTT platforms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said a petition to check "obscene, indecent and objectionable" content on OTT platforms raises an important and serious issue as mobile phones have reached the hands of even children below the age of 10.

"Unfortunately, parents give phones to even small children to keep them occupied," Justice B.R. Gavai remarked.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said children had become adept at technology, provided they reach the "correct sites" which helped them academically or provide clean fun.

"Some of these regular programmes on OTT platforms display language, content and innuendo...

The petition seeks appropriate steps to prohibit such content.

no, not even innuendo, but directly show things which are not just vulgar but perverse. Two respectable people cannot sit together and watch it," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Some measures

He said the government had some regulations in place as counter-measures, and some more were in the works.

"This is either for the legislature or the executive to do. As it is, the judiciary is facing a lot of allegations of encroachment... You (government) do something, we will keep this petition pending," Justice Gavai said.

Mr. Mehta said the objective behind the regulations ought to be to balance freedom of speech and decency.

The court issued notice to the Union government. The petition was filed by Uday Mahurkar, represented by advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain. It had sought a direction from the court to take appropriate steps, including the constitution of a 'National Content Control Authority', to prohibit sexually explicit content from being shown on OTT and social media platforms.

Delhi court extends Tahawwur Rana's NIA custody by 12 days

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The court asks the agency to conduct Rana's medical examination every 24 hours

A Delhi court on Monday extended by 12 days the National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana.

Special judge Chander Jit Singh of the Patiala House Court allowed the plea for custody extension filed by the Central agency, which produced Rana in court after his 18-day initial remand expired on Monday.

Amid tight security, Rana was produced in court with his face covered.

While ordering the NIA custody of the accused, the court directed the agency to conduct his medical examination every 24 hours, and allow him to meet his lawyer every alternate day, in the presence of NIA officials, who would be out of audible distance.

On April 10, the court had sent the 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian-American man, who is wanted for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks conspiracy, to 18-day NIA custody.

The court last week refused to allow the accused to speak to his family.

Rana was extradited by the U.S. to India on April 10 and is now facing trial in the case, 17 years after the attacks that killed more than 166 people in 2008. The NIA has charged Rana with the terror attacks conspiracy with his friend David Headley, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) mastermind.

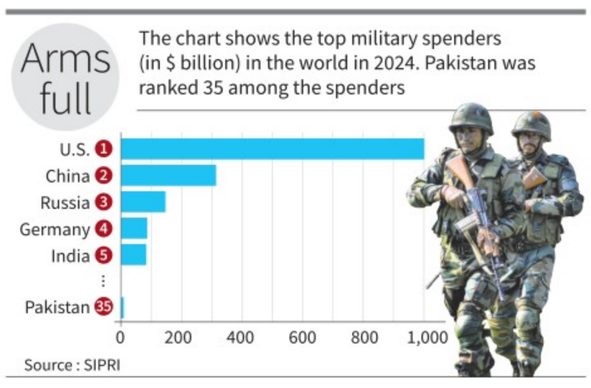
In 2024, India's military expenditure was 9 times that of Pakistan: SIPRI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's military spending in 2024 was nearly nine times that of Pakistan's expenditure, according to a study released on Monday by a leading Swedish think tank that comes amid growing tensions between the two countries over the Pahalgam terror attack.

The country's military expenditure, the fifth largest globally, grew by 1.6% to $86.1 billion while Pakistan spent $10.2 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The top five military spenders – the United States, China, Russia, Germany and India – accounted for 60% of the global total, with combined spending of $1,635 billion, it said.



China's military expenditure increased by 7% to an estimated $314 billion, marking three decades of consecutive growth, the study noted.

China accounted for 50% of all military spending in Asia and Oceania, investing in the continued modernisation of its military and expansion of its cyberwarfare capabilities and nuclear arsenal, it said in the report titled 'Trends in World Military Expenditure 2024'.

SIPRI said military spending in Europe (including Russia) rose by 17% to $693 billion and was the main contributor to the global increase in 2024.

With the war in Ukraine in its third year, military expenditure kept rising across the continent, pushing European military spending beyond the level recorded at the end of the Cold War, it noted.

SIPRI said Russia's military expenditure reached an estimated $149 billion in 2024, a 38% increase from 2023 and double the level in 2015. This represented 7.1% of Russia's GDP and 19% of all Russian government spending.

Ukraine's total military expenditure grew by 2.9% to reach $64.7 billion – equivalent to 43% of Russia's spending. At 34% of GDP, Ukraine had the largest military burden of any country in 2024, the report added.

Long-term and diplomatic visas of Pakistani nationals valid: officials

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Long-term visas (LTVs) and official or diplomatic visas will remain valid even after the April 29 deadline when Indian visas issued to Pakistani citizens will be revoked.

Religion no bar

Officials here clarified that of the 16 categories of visas issued by India to Pakistan nationals, two would remain valid after Tuesday and the validity of the LTVs would not be affected by the religious identity of the visa holders.

On April 23, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that all visas issued to Pakistan nationals under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) would be revoked on April 26. Briefing presspersons on April 23, Mr. Misri urged all Pakistani nationals with "valid endorsements" to exit India through the Integrated Check Post at Attari by May 1.

A BSF soldier checks the passports of Pakistan citizens as they prepare to leave India at the border crossing near Amritsar. REUTERS

The rest of the visas such as "visa on arrival"; those issued to business persons, visitors, film industry workers, and journalists; and visas issued for transit, conference, mountaineering, and tourist groups were revoked on April 27. Apart from these, pilgrim visas and group pilgrim visas to religious minorities of Pakistan were revoked.

The official notification said the deadline for visa for officials and diplomats from Pakistan would be determined by the External Affairs Ministry.

An official note circulated by the Ministry on April 24 said the LTVs would remain valid after April 29 only in cases of Pakistani Hindu visitors.

Referring to that decision, the official note had declared: "The revocation of visas does not apply to the Long Term Visas (LTVs) already issued to Hindu Pakistani nationals, which remain valid."

But an official source said on Monday that "all" LTVs issued to Pakistani citizens will remain valid after April 29.

Centre blocks Pak. YouTube channels, writes to BBC on reportage

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has blocked 16 Pakistani YouTube channels for "disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content" and has written to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), conveying India's strong sentiments on its reportage on the Pahalgam terror attack.

In one of the reports, the BBC had termed the terrorists "militants", officials said.

In a communication to Jackie Martin, India head of the BBC, the External Affairs Ministry conveyed the country's strong sentiments regarding their reporting on the terror attack. "A formal letter has been sent to the BBC on terming terrorists as militants. The External Publicity Division of the Ministry will be monitoring the reporting of the BBC," the official said.

A BBC spokesperson said the broadcaster had sought to report the attacks in Jammu and Kashmir accurately, impartially, and responsibly.

A senior government official said that it was on the recommendation of the Home Ministry that the government banned the Pakistani YouTube channels. The channels, one with a subscriber base of 14.6 million, were blocked for disseminating provocative and communally sensitive content, false and misleading narratives and misinformation against India, its Army and security agencies against the backdrop of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The channels include Dawn News, Ary News, Samaa TV, Bol Newss and Geo News.

UN statement a 'strong win' despite 'dilution': officials

Beijing 'welcomes' any measures to 'cool down' situation between India, Pakistan; UN statement had condemned attack, but omitted any reference to TRF or to cross-border linkages of the attack

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Days after China reportedly helped Pakistan in diluting the UN Security Council statement on the Pahalgam terror attack, Beijing on Monday said it "welcomed" any steps to "cool down" the situation between India and Pakistan.

India has blamed the terror attack on "cross-border" linkages to Pakistan, with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefing more than 20 envoys, including Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong, on the evidence including digital communications gathered so far.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi had spoken to Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Sunday, expressing support for what Mr. Wang called Pakistan's "resolute" action on terrorism. "As Pakistan's ironclad friend and all-weather strategic cooperative partner, China fully understands Pakistan's legitimate security concerns and supports Pakistan in safeguarding its sovereignty and security interests," a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement said about the call, adding China backs an "impartial investigation".

Security on the Attari-Wagah border on Monday. India has directly blamed the terror attack on "cross-border" linkages to Pakistan. PTI

Asked specifically about Pakistan's call for an international investigation, possibly run by Russia and China, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Guo Jiakun said China "welcomes all measures that will help cool down the current situation".

The Chinese statements come after Friday's UNSC statement condemned the Pahalgam attack, but omitted any reference to the TRF or to cross-border linkages of the attack.

Diplomats said it was clear that objections from China and Pakistan on the "disputed nature" of the Kashmir conflict had led to the differences in the language. However, government sources said the statement was a "strong victory" as it came despite Pakistan's current membership and China's support in amending the statement drafted by the US.

'Strongly condemned'

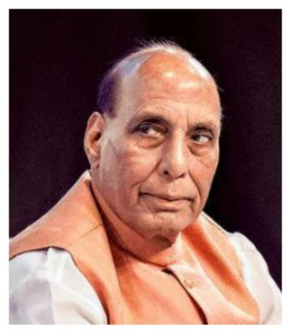
"The majority of the Council members supported the U.S. draft and strongly condemned this terrorist attack," a source said, pointing out that Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif had already admitted, in a recent interview to Sky News, to Pakistan's history of supporting, training and funding terror groups. "This open confession surprises no one and exposes Pakistan as a rogue state fuelling global terrorism and destabilising the region. The world can no longer turn a blind eye," the Indian mission at the UN said on Monday.

Rajnath meets PM Modi; Pak. continues violation of ceasefire along the LoC

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Amid the continuing tense situation along the Line of Control (LoC), and expectations in some sections of possible punitive action by India in response to the Pahalgam attack, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday in what is believed to be a review of security and preparedness.

Ceasefire violations (CFVs) with small arms continued for the fourth consecutive night, even as Pakistan continued to redeploy heavy equipment to the LoC. In another development, Pakistan has issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), closing off some air traffic routes between Islamabad and Lahore from 11 a.m. UTC (coordinated universal time) on April 28 to 5 p.m. UTC on April 30, according to details put out by the open source intelligence handle Damien Simon on X.


Rajnath Singh

During the night of April 27-28, Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small arms fire across the LoC in areas opposite Kupwara and Poonch districts, the Army said on Monday, adding that Indian troops responded swiftly and effectively. This year, till the end of March, there were only two CFVs. In the aftermath of the terror attack on April 22, the number has reached 14.

Guns had fallen silent after an understanding between the two countries in February 2021.

Pakistan Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said in Islamabad that his country's forces had been "reinforced" as "it is something which is imminent now". "So, in that situation, some strategic decisions have to be taken. So those decisions have been taken," Mr. Asif told *Reuters*.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army has taken delivery of the Saab AT4 anti-armour weapon system, and of the MBDA Starstreak very short range air defence systems (VSHORAD) in deals that were contracted sometime ago. Both systems are critical requirements, and arrive at a crucial time.

"We are proud to announce the successful delivery of our AT4 anti-armour weapon system to the Indian armed forces. Selected through a competitive evaluation, AT4 joins India's arsenal as a trusted single-shot solution for short-range combat," SAAB India posted on X.

Kharge flays Modi for missing all-party meet

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for being absent from the all-party meeting held after the Pahalgam attack.

At a "Save the Constitution" rally here, Mr. Kharge said it was the "nation's misfortune" that the Prime Minister was delivering an election speech in Bihar when other political leaders were deliberating on the response to the terror attack.

"When there was an onslaught on the country's self-respect, Mr. Modi was busy elsewhere. We expected him to be amongst us and share his plan," Mr. Kharge said.

He said his party had decided to extend full support to the government in its action to be taken in response to the terror attack.

"For us, the nation is supreme," he said.

Now, tourism as a weapon against terrorism

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Bollywood stars and country-wide tour operators are joining hands to instil a sense of confidence in Kashmir's tourism players and prospective visitors that was shattered to some extent by the terror attack.

Sources said the External Affairs Ministry is joining the effort by appealing to countries such as the U.S., the U.K., Australia and Canada that issued travel advisories against visiting J&K after the attack.

In a special briefing for nearly 20 envoys last week, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made a specific request that countries that had put up the advisories should take them down, and consider the impact the cancellations by tourists would have on the economy in J&K, diplomatic sources told *The Hindu*.

Call for return: Actor Atul Kulkarni enjoying a shikara ride in Dal lake on Monday. He urged tourists to visit J&K. IMRAN NISSAR

Officials said the J&K government and the Centre were likely to launch joint campaigns to see tourism back on track in Kashmir.

Actor Atul Kulkarni joined actor Sunil Shetty in advocating that people of the country not cancel their trips to Kashmir. Meeting tourism players in Pahalgam, Mr. Kulkarni said six terrorists could not terrorise 1.4 billion Indians.

"It's not possible to terrorise us. Ordinary Indians have a weapon for the first time to defeat terrorism. It's tourism. People need not cancel their bookings to Kashmir. They should come and meet people and experience the place," he said.

National Conference leader and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said the J&K government was mulling ways to reach out to tourism stakeholders and the film industry.

He said the J&K government and the Centre were on the same page when it came to the revival of tourism in Kashmir.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

After BJP's charge, Cong. distances itself from leaders' remarks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP said here on Friday that comments by some Congress leaders on the Pahalgam attack were being used by Pakistan to fuel anti-India propaganda.

Responding to the charge, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh distanced the party from the comments made by his colleagues, saying "they speak for themselves". He said the party's position had been made clear by the Congress Working Committee, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said that some Congress leaders were raising doubts on the Pahalgam victims' testimonies that the terrorists shot down people after asking for their religion.

'Condemnable remarks'

He sought answers from the Congress leadership on the "condemnable" comments made by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddharamaiah and his Cabinet colleague Ramappa Balappa Timmapur; Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly Vijay Wadettiwar; Haryana Minister Chaudhary Chander Kumar; and former Union Ministers Mani Shankar Aiyar and Saifuddin Soz.

Ravi Shankar Prasad

Acknowledging that Mr. Kharge and Mr. Gandhi had given a public statement that the party was with the government's action on the issue, Mr. Prasad said it reflected the strength of a mature democracy.

He said the BJP had firmly backed the Congress-led government during the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. "We were expecting the same from Congress...but what are some big leaders of the Congress saying and what is the purpose behind it," he asked.

Mr. Ramesh said that on April 24, the CWC had adopted a resolution denouncing the terror attack. "Thereafter, on the evening of April 24, the Congress president and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha attended the all-party meeting and put forward the party's views. Some Congress leaders have been speaking to the media. They speak for themselves and do not reflect the Congress' views," he said on X.

TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

TVS

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No. 12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006
Website:www.tvsmotor.com Telephone No. (044) 28332115 Email:contactus@tvsmotor.com
CIN:L35921TN1992PLC022845

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
		Unaudited		Audited		Unaudited		Audited	
1	Total income from operations	9,550.44	8,168.84	36,251.32	31,776.37	11,542.00	9,942.48	44,089.01	38,778.82
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	1,111.98	671.63	3,628.79	2,780.66	992.88	637.35	3,505.35	2,667.62
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	1,111.98	671.63	3,628.79	2,780.66	992.88	637.35	3,505.35	2,667.62
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	852.12	485.43	2,710.54	2,083.00	686.70	401.87	2,349.90	1,753.58
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income /(Loss) (after tax)]	892.56	473.16	2,743.16	2,063.26	733.01	372.65	2,427.03	1,725.07
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re.1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	9,889.14	7,683.53	-	-	8,455.87	6,736.00
8	Security Premium Account	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
9	Networth	9,966.18	7,725.95	9,966.18	7,725.95	8,481.39	6,751.08	8,481.39	6,751.08
10	Outstanding Debt	1,441.38	1,027.61	1,441.38	1,027.61	23,500.76	22,930.82	23,500.76	22,930.82
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.13	2.76	3.38	2.76	3.38
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	17.94 17.94	10.22 10.22	57.05 57.05	43.84 43.84	13.64 13.64	8.15 8.15	47.05 47.05	35.50 35.50
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	7.13	5.18	5.36	2.52	2.40	3.26	2.92	1.50
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	37.22	25.15	30.65	21.64	18.52	10.60	14.57	10.53
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.60	0.64	0.60	0.64	1.12	1.02	1.12	1.02
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	-	1.81	2.44	1.81	2.44
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.84	0.79	0.84	0.79	0.60	0.61	0.60	0.61
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.58	0.60	0.58	0.60
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	28.08	27.86	28.08	27.86	24.80	25.29	24.80	25.29
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	16.64	17.97	16.64	17.97	11.46	11.71	11.46	11.71
25	Operating Margin (%)	14.0	11.3	12.3	11.1	12.4	10.3	10.8	9.9
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	8.9	5.9	7.5	6.6	6.2	4.1	5.4	4.5

Notes:

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.tvsmotor.com).

2 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

3 The detailed Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2025 can be accessed through the below QR code.

Date : 28th April 2025

For TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED
Sd/-
Prof. Sir Ralf Dieter Speth
Chairman

INBRIEF

SC asks if Centre was working for the welfare of commoners

The Supreme Court on Monday asked whether the government was really working for the welfare of the common man by constructing huge highways without providing any facilities for emergency medical care for road accident victims. "Can you be so casual? Are you not serious about this provision? People are dying in road accidents. You are constructing huge highways but people are dying there because there is no facility. There is no scheme for golden hour treatment.?" Justice A.S. Oka asked. The sharp comments came while hearing a case over the delay in the implementation of the cashless scheme for treating road accident victims.

Concessional rates for sending textbooks through 'Gyan Post'

The Department of Posts will provide concessional rates for transporting educational materials such as textbooks through a service called Gyan Post, modelled on the book post system, Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced on Monday. The service will have prices ranging from ₹20 to ₹100, for packages ranging from 300 grams to 5 kg. Printed materials that are "prescribed in syllabus for correspondence and regular courses for students" by State and Central education Boards or universities will be permitted to be carried through Gyan Post, while periodicals such as magazines will not be covered under the scheme.

Murmu presents the Padma awards to 71 personalities

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, Telugu actor Nandamuri Balakrishna, singer Pankaj Udhas, Sushil Kumar Modi, former hockey player P.R. Sreejesh, Tamil actor S. Ajith Kumar were among the 10 personalities presented with Padma Bhushan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu confers the Padma Vibhushan award on writer M.T. Vasudevan Nair (posthumous); violinist L. Subramaniam and Chairman of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals D. Nageshwar Reddy at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday. ANI

Osamu Suzuki, former chief of Suzuki Motor Corporation; singer Pankaj Udhas; Sushil Kumar Modi, former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister; film director Shekhar Kapur; and Lakshmipathy Ramasubbaiyer, publisher of the Tamil daily *Dinamalar*, were among the prominent personalities given the Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday.

President Murmu conferred the honours on 71 of the 139 distinguished persons who were named for the country's top civilian awards – Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri – on the eve of the 76th Republic Day in January.

The award ceremony was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall on Monday in the presence of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and others.

Among the awardees, four received Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian honour in the country. While Suzuki and M.T. Vasudevan Nair, Malayalam writer and film director, were given the award posthumously, D. Nageshwar Reddy, chairman of Asian Institute of Gastroenterology and AIG Hospitals, and violinist Lakshminarayana Subramaniam received their awards in person.

Mr. Kapur, Telugu actor Nandamuri Balakrishna, Pankaj Udhas, Sushil Kumar Modi, former hockey player P.R. Sreejesh, Tamil actor S. Ajith Kumar, chairperson of Zydus Lifesciences Pankaj Patel, and Vinod Dham, an Indian-American engineer widely known as the 'Father of the Pentium', were the 10 distinguished personalities given the Padma Bhushan.

As many as 57 prominent personalities were given the Padma Shri. These include Mr. Ramasubbaiyer; former chairperson of the State Bank of India Arundhati Bhattacharya; industrialist Pawan Kumar Goenka; wildlife researcher and Marathi author Maruti Bhujangrao Chitampalli, who gave unique dictionaries on birds, animals and trees; and master puppeteer Bhimavva Doddabalappa Shillekyathara, who was one of the first women to practise Togalu Gombeyaata (leather puppetry). Former AIIMS and SGPGI Director A.K. Mahapatra and Punjabi singer Jaspinder Narula Kaul were also awarded the Padma Shri.

30 unsung heroes

This year, the Padma awards were given to 30 unsung heroes, including 100-year-old Libia Lobo Sardesai, who played an important role in Goa's freedom movement.

SC asks police to return Allahbadia's passport

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Maharashtra police to return the passport of YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, who is facing criminal cases for his controversial remarks on parents and sex during the show *India's Got Latent*, enabling him to travel abroad.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant recorded the submissions made by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra and Assam, that the investigation against Mr. Allahbadia was nearly complete. Mr. Mehta did not object to the request made by the YouTuber, represented by advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, for his passport. The court ordered Mr. Allahbadia to apply to the Maharashtra Cyber Crime Bureau for the release of his passport. The apex court had protected him from arrest in February while condemning his "filthy language" during the show.

The court decided to further hear arguments at a later date on the YouTuber's plea to club the two First Information Reports (FIRs), and hear the case in Maharashtra, where he resides.

War is not an option and it is the right time to restore statehood to J&K, says A.S. Dulat

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

A.S. Dulat suggested that as a confidence-building measure, this is a good time to restore the statehood for J&K. IMRAN NISSAR

Amarjit Singh Dulat, former chief of India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), and an expert on the Kashmir question, speaking to *The Hindu* in Bengaluru in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, said that despite jingoistic calls, war was not an option. "I have always maintained war is not an option. Let us hope there is no war. Even if it comes to that, it is not just the last option but the last bad option. Neither country can afford a war," he said.

Asked about other offensive options before the Government of India to create a deterrence against such attacks on Pakistan, he said while that was for the government to decide, deterrence could be built "by increasing security, and ensuring the local Kashmiri is happy and is on our side".

"I agree with the Prime Minister when he says the perpetrators of this attack should be found and punished. So let us find them," he said.

On restoring statehood

Mr. Dulat stressed the importance of taking the Kashmiris along and expressed concern about some actions by the Union government in the region in the aftermath of the terror attack.

"For the time being, everybody in Kashmir is one, and all the Kashmiri leaders have said they are with Delhi. This is a rare opportunity that should not be squandered away. The local Kashmiri should not suffer for whatever has happened. But slowly, there is a concern developing. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have also made statements that locals should not be targeted. The demolition of houses in this fashion is a concern to me as well," he said.

He suggested that as a confidence-building measure, this was a good time to restore the statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. "Whatever the Government of India does, it should take the local Kashmiri along. In this context, it is not a bad time to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The elected government in J&K should be supported and given credibility," he argued.

When quizzed about the narrative that claimed that a large number of tourists going to Kashmir is proof of "Naya Kashmir", where violence had come down, Mr. Dulat said, "Clearly terror has not gone away and tourism is not normalcy in Kashmir."

"Violence had indeed come down. But it comes down and spikes again. Our armed forces have come under increasing attacks in the thickly forested Poonch Rajouri region for the past few years. In the last year, there have been more attacks in Jammu. Recently, there were a few attacks in Kathua, and it came up close to Udhampur. That's where you start climbing to the [Kashmir] Valley, and [it] is the route to Pahalgam. Obviously, these terrorists seem to have created some bases in this belt; it is not as if they are coming and going every day. So, if you see this pattern, terror has not gone away," he said.

Court accepts ED's closure report in 2010 CWG 'scam' case against Suresh Kalmadi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday accepted the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) closure report in a money laundering case against Suresh Kalmadi, former head of the organising committee of 2010 Commonwealth Games, then Secretary General Lalit Bhanot and others.

Reacting to the court developments, the Congress claimed that the case was "never about justice" and accused the BJP of "weaponising lies".

The reports of corruption in conducting the 2010 Commonwealth Games (CWG) caused a huge political uproar in the country, leading to filing of several criminal and money laundering cases, including the present one. Mr. Kalmadi and others were accused of misconduct in award and execution of two important contracts for the games.

The BJP had launched a major anti-corruption campaign against the Manmohan Singh government as well as the Sheila Dikshit-led Delhi government.

However, on Monday, Special judge (PC Act) Sanjeev Aggarwal of the Rouse Avenue Court said that during the investigations, the prosecution failed to make out an offence under the relevant Section of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, and therefore, no offence had been made out or has been committed.

"No offence has been made out or has been committed despite discreet investigations by the ED. Therefore, there is no reason to continue with the present ECIR, as a consequence, the closure report filed by the ED stands accepted," the court said.

It further noted that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had already closed the corruption case, based on which the ED started its money laundering probe.

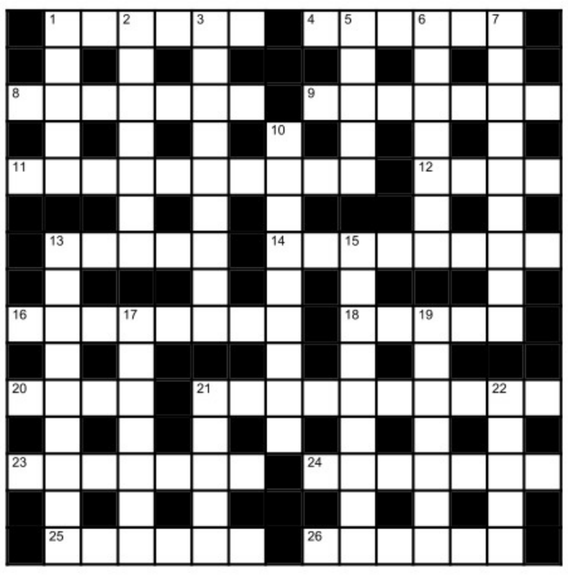
In a video statement, senior Congress leader Pawan Khera alleged that the BJP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal targeted very competent former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and former Delhi Chief Minister Shiela Dikshit to come to power.

TH CROSSWORD + 14471

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Broadcast breakfast soap opera (6)
4 Girl's admitting - was playing with rope (6)
8 Half-black West-facing skid row apartment (7)
9 Foundation boarded hastily (7)
11 Slow to criticise shop in front (10)
12 Cycling path with style (4)
13 Often suppressing secret need for drama (5)
14 Creative and developmentally disabled, initially unsure, transforming into master finally (8)
16 Musical composition from follower starting to thrill continent (8)
18 Fat specimen lacking structure basically (5)
20 Grab drink recipe (4)
21 Clothes-maker makes a mess with braid (10)
23 Setter's laid-back about suggestion of colonoscopy check-up (7)
24 Top team invited to mother's luncheon, at first (7)
25 Study of disease eliminated main cause - accepted alternative, finally (6)
26 Develop ability to chew and bite etherified piece (6)

Down

1 Piece of glass finally dropped off at Eastern division (5)
2 I learnt skipping rope (7)
3 Knowledge of a battle tingling most of senses (9)
5 In heaven, a cow's not popular (5)
6 Dirty sand and weeds, essentially brought on board causing misery (7)
7 Review of expert surprisingly - missing point on chemical (2-7)
10 What's sometimes seen on the head of God and Mahatmas - endlessly spreading (6,3)
13 Quiet amateur at gym - smaller and lacking form (9)
15 Tesla managed by Starlink head's dead - put this in other languages too... (9)
17 Dog's not very energetic at first - retriever, maybe? (7)
19 Last person losing switch is character facing trial (7)
21 Takes wheels to move? (5)
22 Lowest member of underworld gets to the top with nuance (5)

SUDOKU

	4	8	1					
				5	6	7		
5				8				
8	3		5					
	5	2	7		8	4	3	
					9		8	6
				3				5
		7	9	1				
					4	8	9	

No.SS6504 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P	S	V	A	A	G	B		
P	A	N	I	N	I	B	U	T
T	T	I	N	O	N	T	N	R
A	Y	N	X	B	R	I	G	H
T	E	N	U	P	G	R	E	W
I	U	D	I	E	R	S	O	M
B	R	E	R	O	C	E	R	I
S	E	T	I	N	A	B	O	S
P	R	E	Y	S	F	L	U	E
N	C	Y	T	E	L	E	H	B
R	A	H	M	A	A	Q	U	A
R	I	U	M	O	M	R	M	N
T	J	A	V	A	N	O	B	E
L	P	R	I	Z	E	R	R	I
A	E	O	P	R	E	C	K	O
N	E	D	S	T	U	P	A	S
D	S	G	A	S	T	H		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	4	9	5	1	2	3	6
3	1	9	2	6	8	5	4	7
6	5	2	4	7	3	8	1	9
2	4	6	7	3	5	1	9	8
1	7	8	6	2	9	4	5	3
9	3	5	8	1	4	6	7	2
8	9	7	1	4	6	3	2	5
4	6	3	5	9	2	7	8	1
5	2	1	3	8	7	9	6	4

FAITH

Rama's exemplary character

When King Dasaratha asked his son Rama to go to forest, citizens of Ayodhya bemoaned, asking why the king should make this order to Rama, who was treading the path of righteousness. Sri Muralidhar Swamigal said in a discourse that Rama told Lakshmana that He could obtain anything in the universe but would not get it through unrighteous ways. Rama said He was satisfied with whatever came by following dharma. Rama said He feared two things: seeing unrighteousness and the fear of answering in the eternal world for His deeds.

Sri Adi Sankara says in Bhaja Govindam that there can be no arguments in the court of Yama, the God of death, who would extend punishments straightaway.

In the hermitage of sage Athri, Sita introduced Rama to Anasuya, the sage's wife, and said, "He possesses all pious qualities, compassion towards all beings, and is the conqueror of worldly pleasures."

All the Rishis in the forest pleaded with Rama to protect them from the clutches of Rakshasas by slaying them. Why can't the Rishis kill the Rakshasas by themselves through the power of their penance? As sages, it is not their duty. But Rama's duty as the King of Ayodhya is to protect the good people. The sages said He is the one who follows dharma and protects the same.

Rama is also known for showing gratitude. He wished to hear Sri Ramayana in its entirety, not because He wanted to know His achievements, but to recall the various incidents through the people who helped Him. Listening to the recitation by Lava and Kusa, His heart melted, and He revered all those people.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,218	1.27
US Dollar	85.23	0.21
Gold	98,400	-1.00
Brent oil	65.54	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2369.80	15.50
Adani Ports	1209.90	16.90
Apollo Hosp	7045.00	92.00
Asian Paints	2452.20	20.60
Axis Bank	1192.80	26.50
Bajaj Auto	8096.00	62.00
Bajaj Finserv	2049.70	4.20
Bajaj Finance	9093.00	-19.00
Bharat Elec	305.05	7.45
Bharti Airtel	1821.80	4.60
Cipla	1555.10	29.20
Coal India	397.15	4.00
Dr Reddys Lab	1198.70	23.90
Eicher Motors	5622.00	46.50
Eternal Ltd.	227.21	-1.60
Grasim Ind	2753.40	18.60
HCL Tech	1549.30	-28.90
HDFC Bank	1920.20	9.00
HDFC Life	710.85	6.30
Hero MotoCorp	3911.70	16.20
Hindalco	628.65	6.55
Hind Unilever	2318.60	-13.60
ICICI Bank	1428.80	24.00
IndusInd Bank	830.55	8.20
Infosys	1482.10	1.90
ITC	428.80	1.00
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	257.90	4.85
JSW Steel	1054.40	26.00
Kotak Bank	2225.60	21.20
L&T	3327.30	55.20
M&M	2930.60	66.40
Maruti Suzuki	11846.00	148.00
NestleIndia	2406.00	-7.50
NTPC	361.50	5.05
ONGC	250.60	4.27
PowerGrid Corp	308.55	2.05
Reliance Ind	1368.80	68.40
SBI Life	1736.10	41.00
State Bank	817.35	18.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	622.00	-33.20
Sun Pharma	1841.60	54.20
TataConsumerProduct	1155.20	-0.50
Tata Motors	668.15	12.90
Tata Steel	142.07	3.22
TCS	3443.50	-4.50
Tech Mahindra	1461.50	-0.50
Titan	3369.10	3.90
Trent Ltd.	5209.50	64.50
UltraTech Cement	12114.00	-123.00
Wipro	240.50	-0.40

Embassy REIT raises ₹675 cr. short-term debt

Embassy Office Parks REIT has raised ₹675 crore as short-term debt by issuing commercial papers to repay its existing borrowing and meet working capital requirement. PTI

IIP grows 3% as electricity, manufacturing output surge

Electricity production surged 2.7 percentage points to 6.3% in March as summer spikes demand; consumer durables and construction see the sharpest increase at 6.6% and 8.8% respectively

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew 3% as electricity and manufacturing sector production surged in March 2025, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

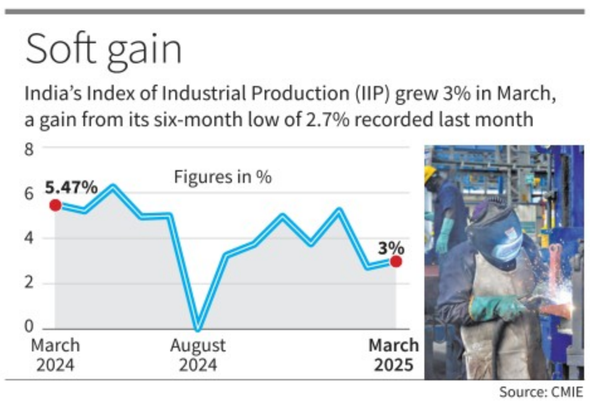
Electricity production surged 2.7 percentage points to 6.3% in the month under review as summer has increased power demand. Manufacturing sector output grew at a quicker 3% in March 2025, as against 2.7% in the previous month. Mining and quarrying sector growth slowed to 0.4% in March as against 1.6% in February. In the use-based classification, consumer durables and construction registered the sharpest increase in growth, coming at 6.6% and 8.8% respectively. These sectors grew at 3.7% and 6.8% respectively in February.

The other sectors where output grew at a faster pace than in February were primary sectors and intermediate goods, at 3.1% and 2.3% respectively.

Consumer non-durables output continued to contract for the second quarter, shrinking a steeper 4.7% in the month under review. Growth in capital goods output increased at a slower 2.4% in March, compared with 8.1% in the month before.

On a year-on-year basis, IIP growth came in at 4%, making it the slowest in four years.

Industrial growth has domestic tailwinds and will also face global headwinds, say experts.



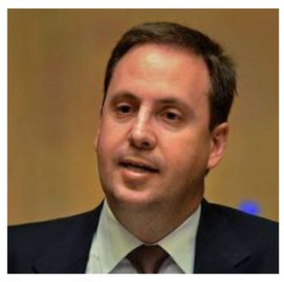
Source: CMIE

'IMEC will work if India, Europe keep agriculture sector out'

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor's (IMEC) potential can be realised if Europe and India can find common grounds by keeping the agriculture sector aside, Steven Ciobo, Australia's former minister of trade and defence, said on Monday.

He said at a time when the world is undergoing a third industrial revolution, the impact of artificial intelligence will be extraordinary. "The core of IMEC should be built on what is going to be 20 years from now. The UAE, Saudi Arabia are already trying to leverage their position to make sure they are on top of AI. India is on the top when it comes to the talent pool related to AI. IMEC stands to achieve when it realises this," he said. Mr. Ciobo was speaking during the first India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor Summit held here.


Steven Ciobo

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the State would be a gateway for the IMEC.

ED raids Gensol Engineering

Reuters
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate has raided the premises of embattled Gensol Engineering and seized documents and electronic devices, the company said on Monday.

The company, which has come under scrutiny for defaulting on debt, said the financial impact of the operation at its Gurgaon and Ahmedabad offices could not be ascertained.

IndusInd Bank audit confirms incorrect accounting; Deputy CEO steps down

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Even as IndusInd Bank announced that it would take necessary steps to hold the personnel responsible for lapses and shift their roles after an independent audit confirmed incorrect accounting, its deputy CEO and wholetime member Arun Khurana resigned late on Monday.

"The Board is taking necessary steps to fix accountability of the persons responsible for these lapses and re-align roles and responsibilities of senior management," the bank said in an exchange filing on Sunday.

The lender will take a hit of ₹1,959.98 crore on profit as estimated by the report, the bank said in the filing.

"The report identifies incorrect accounting of internal derivative trades, especially in case of early termination, which resulted in recording of notional profits, as the principal root cause for accounting discrepancy," IndusInd Bank informed the exchanges. The bank's board must propose a new Chief Executive Officer by late 2025, who would likely be an external candidate with expertise in governance and risk management, to align with RBI's fit-and-proper criteria, said Sonam Chandwani, managing partner at KS Legal & Associates.

INBRIEF

TVS Motor Company PAT jumps 67% to ₹648 crore

TVS Motor Company Ltd. reported a 67% growth in Q4 consolidated net profit to ₹648 crore from ₹387 crore in the year-earlier period. Consolidated revenue from operations for the quarter grew 17% year on year (YoY) to ₹11,542 crore. For FY25, the company reported 33% YoY growth in consolidated net profit at ₹2,236 crore. Consolidated annual revenue from operations grew 14% to ₹44,089 crore.

UltraTech Cement Q4 net profit rises 10% to ₹2,482 cr.

UltraTech Cement Ltd. reported a 10% growth in Q4 consolidated net profit to ₹2,482 crore from ₹2,258 crore a year earlier. Consolidated net sales grew 14% to ₹22,788 crore compared with ₹20,069 crore a year ago. For FY25, the company reported a 14% fall in year-on-year consolidated net profit to ₹6,039 crore. Annual consolidated net sales grew 7% to ₹74,936 crore year-on-year. Consolidated sales volumes reached 41.02 million metric tonnes for the quarter, growing by 17%.

Central Bank of India Q4 net profit rises 28% to ₹1,034 cr.

Central Bank of India's fourth-quarter net profit increased 28% to ₹1,034 crore from ₹807 crore in the year earlier period. The company's net interest income, however, contracted 4% to ₹3,399 crore in the reporting quarter. Net interest margin also dipped to 3.17% in the quarter ended March 2025, as against 3.6% in the corresponding period last fiscal. Gross NPAs improved to 3.2% and net NPA to 0.5% from 4.5% and 1.2% respectively.

Textile sector eyes solutions for yarn export to Bangladesh

Dicey time: If the situation does not improve, the entire textile spinning sector will be affected, says Mr. Selvaraju.

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

'If Bangladesh exports are hit, the yarn will go toward domestic use thus bringing down price'

With Bangladesh closing its land ports for yarn exported by India, textile mills in India are examining alternative modes of transport while also urging the government to take up the issue with Bangladesh.

Almost 30% of India's yarn, mainly dyed and special yarn, exported to Bangladesh was being transported via land ports.

At a recent meeting, the yarn exporters explored various alternative options such as shipping in containers, using inland water ways, etc. They also had meetings with buyers in Bangladesh.

Lead time issue

"The problem in sending the goods in containers by sea is the lead time," said Siddhartha Rajagopal, executive director of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council.

"Even now, 70% of the Indian yarn to Bangladesh goes by sea. Those who exported through land ports will also use the sea now. There are smaller ships that go from Kolkata.

"The possibility of sending in those ships needs to be explored," he said.

According to K. Selvaraju, secretary general of the Southern India Mills' Association, nearly 45% of India's yarn exports are to Bangladesh. India used to totally export over 100 million kg of yarn a month. Now, it is just about 90 million kg.

Main markets

China and Bangladesh were main markets for Indian yarn. In recent years, China's imports of Indian yarn reduced substantially.

If the 30% exports to Bangladesh are affected, the yarn will be supplied domestically, which could bring down its price. The domestic textile value chain will be impacted, added Mr. Selvaraju.

Currently, textile mills in the northern States are affected because of the closure of the land ports. However, if the situation does not improve, the entire textile spinning sector will be affected, he said.

IDBI Bank Q4 net profit rises 26% to ₹2,051 crore

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

IDBI Bank on Monday reported a 26% rise in net profit at ₹2,051 crore for the March quarter of FY25.

Total income rose to ₹9,035 crore in the period under review from ₹7,887 crore in the January-March period of previous fiscal.

Interest income marginally slid to ₹6,979 crore from ₹6,990 crore. In the 2024-25 fiscal, net profit rose 33% to ₹7,515 crore. Total income rose to ₹33,826 crore from ₹30,037 crore in FY24.

Net NPAs slid 0.15% of advances from over 0.34%.

The board of IDBI Bank has proposed a dividend of ₹2.10 per share.

'Attari-Wagah closure likely to hit dry fruit imports from Afghanistan'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India's imports of dry fruits, including almonds, raisins, dried apricots, and pistachios, from Afghanistan are expected to be impacted due to the closure of the land borders amid heightened tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack, which is expected to push domestic prices of these commodities, exporters said.

According to the exporters, Afghanistan is a key supplier of these dry fruits to India.

TVS HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Formerly known as Sundaram-Clayton Limited)

Regd office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006.
Website : www.tvsholdings.com Tel : 044-2833 2115 Email : corpsec@tvsholdings.com
CIN : L64200TN1962PLC004792

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
		Quarter ended		Year ended		Quarter ended		Year ended	
		31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024	31.03.2025	31.03.2024
		Unaudited		Audited		Unaudited		Audited	
1	Total income	300.40	407.18	644.05	1,646.56	11,807.49	10,033.79	45,032.85	39,916.10
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	264.04	251.43	410.09	415.19	955.84	729.95	3,593.63	2,756.19
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items) (including discontinued operations)	264.04	251.43	410.09	410.12	958.83	742.99	3,616.12	2,786.42
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	241.58	219.22	352.16	338.74	643.96	463.86	2,409.25	1,782.38
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	240.22	219.86	349.73	336.08	682.84	418.52	2,458.30	1,728.28
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Rs.5/- each)	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12	10.12
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)			1,601.02	1,439.45			4,677.27	2,829.95
8	Securities Premium	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42	36.42
9	Networth	1,604.56	1,440.37	1,604.56	1,440.37	3,685.20	2,619.28	3,685.20	2,619.28
10	Outstanding Debt (Excluding Non Convertible Redeemable Preference Shares)	943.81	550.00	943.81	550.00	32,488.03	26,232.48	32,488.03	26,232.48
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio (including exceptional item) (Times)	0.45	0.31	0.45	0.31	5.93	8.24	5.93	8.24
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Rs. 5/- each) (not annualised) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	119.40 119.40	108.35 108.35	174.06 174.06	167.43 167.43	139.87 139.87	114.78 114.78	575.41 575.41	395.60 395.60
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
18	Current Ratio (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.34	0.23	0.34	0.23	0.60	0.59	0.60	0.59
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
25	Operating Margin (%)	- NOT APPLICABLE -							
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	80.42	53.84	54.68	20.57	5.45	4.58	5.35	4.44

Notes:

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and on company's website (www.tvsholdings.com).

2 Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

3 The Detailed Financial Results of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2025 can be accessed through the below QR code :

Date : 28th April 2025

For TVS Holdings Limited
Sd/-
Venu Srinivasan
Chairman

SANAA

Houthis claim that 68 killed in U.S. strikes on migrant centre in Yemen

REUTERS

Houthi rebel-controlled media in Yemen said on Monday that U.S. strikes hit a migrant detention centre in the movement's stronghold of Saada, killing at least 68 people. "68 African migrants were killed and 47 others wounded in the U.S. attack targeting a centre for illegal migrants in the city of Saada," the Houthi media said. AFP

VATICAN CITY

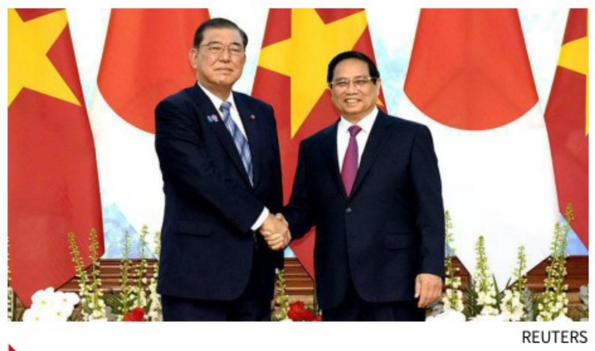
Conclave to start on May 7, and new pope 'must tackle abuse'

AFP

Catholic cardinals agreed on Monday to begin a conclave on May 7 to elect a new pope, and highlighted clerical sexual abuse as one of the key challenges facing Pope Francis's successor. The date was decided at a meeting of cardinals of all ages early on Monday, two days after the funeral of Francis, who died on April 21 aged 88. AFP

HANOI

Japan, Vietnam sign agreements on semiconductors, clean energy

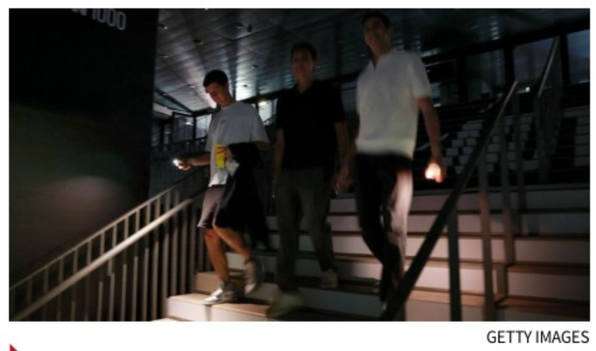


REUTERS

Japan and Vietnam agreed to deepen ties on semiconductors and clean energy as Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba visited Hanoi to shore up ties after Donald Trump's tariff onslaught. The visit follows Chinese President Xi Jinping's Southeast Asia tour in which he tried to position Beijing as an alternative to the U.S. AFP

MADRID

Massive power outage hits large parts of Spain and Portugal



GETTY IMAGES

Spain and Portugal were hit by a widespread power outage on Monday that paralysed public transport, caused large traffic jams and delayed flights. Utility operators sought to restore the grid but Spanish officials said the outage, the cause of which was not immediately known, could last from six to 10 hours. REUTERS.

Russia stakes claim to annexed areas of Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia said on Monday it was ready to negotiate directly with Ukraine, but that recognition of its claims over five Ukrainian regions including Crimea were "imperative" to resolving the conflict.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview with Brazilian newspaper *O Globo* that "We remain open to negotiations."

"International recognition of Russia's ownership of Crimea, Sevastopol, the Donetsk People's Republic, the Lugansk People's Republic, the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions is imperative," he said.

Russia declares 3-day truce in Ukraine for next week

The ceasefire will run from May 8 through May 10 and mark Russia's Victory Day in Second World War; Kyiv dismisses Putin's move as 'window dressing', calls for an immediate and lasting truce

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared a unilateral 72-hour ceasefire next week in Ukraine to mark Victory Day in the Second World War as the U.S. presses for a deal to end the three-year-old war. Kyiv insisted on a longer and immediate truce.

The Kremlin said the truce, ordered on "humanitarian grounds," will run from the start of May 8 and last through the end of May 10 to mark Moscow's defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945. That timing translates to start at 2100 GMT, on May 7, lasting until 2100 GMT on May 10.

Rising costs: Houses that were damaged in Russia's air raid in the Donetsk region in Ukraine on Monday. AP

Ukraine, which has previously agreed to U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal of a full 30-day ceasefire, dismissed Mr. Putin's move as window dressing.

"If Russia truly wants peace, it must cease fire immediately," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said, according to the ministry. He emphasised that Kyiv is ready for a "lasting, reliable, and complete ceasefire" for at least 30 full days.

"Russia believes that the Ukrainian side should follow this example," Kremlin said, warning that "in case of violations of the ceasefire by the Ukrainian side, the Russian armed forces will give an adequate and efficient response." Mr. Putin previously announced a unilateral 30-hour Easter ceasefire.

As Canadians vote, Trump pushes his takeover plans

Agence France-Presse
OTTAWA

Canada was voting on Monday for a new government to confront a trade war and annexation threats by President Donald Trump, who pushed for the United States to absorb its neighbour as polling stations opened.

The Liberal Party, led by new Prime Minister Mark Carney, looked set to lose to the Conservatives' Pierre Poilievre until the U.S. President's attacks on the country sparked a sudden reversal in poll forecasts.

Mr. Trump forcefully inserted himself into Canadian politics on election day with a Truth Social post saying Canada would face "ZERO TARIFFS" if it "becomes the cherished 51st state."

Long day: Voters lining up outside a polling station to cast their ballots on election day in Ottawa on Monday. AFP

Mr. Carney, 60, has never held elected office and replaced Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister last month. He had a lucrative career as an investment banker before serving as the central bank governor in both Canada and Britain.

Mr. Poilievre, a 45-year-old career politician, has tried to keep the focus on domestic concerns that made Mr. Trudeau deeply unpopular toward the end of his decade in power, especially soaring living costs.

Nepal to witness a new political front to challenge Oli government, says Bhattarai

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Nepal's former Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai will launch a new political front to address growing disenchantment about the current government led by Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli.

In an exclusive interview with *The Hindu* on Monday, Mr. Bhattarai ruled out weakening of the democratic process in Nepal and said "there is no chance of the return of monarchy in Nepal" and that the unhappiness on the ground is against Mr. Oli's government and not against the post-monarchy democracy.

Baburam Bhattarai

"Nepal is caught in the cycle of three leaders – Sher Bahadur Deuba, K.P. Sharma Oli and Prachanda. The youth are disenchanted as economic development has been too slow. People are looking for a change and that is why we are launching this front and have tentatively named it as Progressive Democratic Front or Progressive Socialist Front," Mr. Bhattarai said while adding that new constituents will be part of the front as Nepal plans for the next election in 2027. Mr. Bhattarai currently leads the Naya Shakti Party which is a democratic socialist political party in Nepal.

Mr. Bhattarai is visiting India as Nepal marks 20th anniversary of Jana Andolan II.

He also said that despite growing unhappiness against the Oli government, there is no likelihood of an immediate overthrow of the current government as "no party in the parliament has a majority".

Mr. Bhattarai remarked that much of Nepal's current political problem is rooted in the fact that the Maoists could not implement their full charter of change and said, "Nepal's revolution was incomplete and the current situation and the protests are part of that pain that we have to undergo before more changes takes place in the country."

China and Philippines defend their claims over disputed reef

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

China and the Philippines on Monday defended their claims to a disputed reef in the South China Sea, after Manila accused Beijing of seeking to "intimidate and harass" with a state media report that suggested the area had been seized.

The Sandy Cay reef lies near Thitu Island, or Pagasa, where the Philippines stations troops and maintains a coast guard monitoring base.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said on Saturday that the country's coast guard had "implemented maritime control" over Tiexian Reef, part of Sandy Cay, in mid-April.

The Philippines and China have been engaged in months of confrontations over the South China Sea.

"There is no truth whatsoever to the claim of the China Coast Guard that the (Sandy Cay sandbanks) have been seized," Manila's National Security Council spokesman Jonathan Malaya told a Monday press conference.

Beijing's foreign ministry on Monday reiterated the reef was part of China's territory and said its moves constituted "rights protection and law enforcement activities".

At least 40 killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes on Monday killed at least 40 people across the Palestinian territory.

At least 2,222 people have been killed since Israel resumed its military campaign in the Gaza Strip on March 18.

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY,
(UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)
3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of Immovable properties by the Government under the provisions of the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (KPIDFE Act) and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable property through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis'.
The intending bidders will be required to furnish Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (as mentioned against each auction in the e-portal provided by the Service Provider/Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only).

Short Description of the Immovable Property

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004. (Khata stands in the name of Competent Authority and Auctioning Authority)

Sl. No.	DETAILS OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY (Clear Title by Court in order No. MISC No. 689/2019)	Minimum Bid Price (Rs)	EMD (Rs)	Bid Increase Value (Rs)
1.	No. 564/29, PID No. 59-107-29, 10th cross, WKP Road, 7th Block, Jayanagara, ward No. 59, Bengaluru. Measuring East to West 40 ft North to South 40 Total 1600 sq.ft (Ground + 3 Floor) Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/s35PfS 4iRve9MZe16			
(a)	Ground Floor, Flat No.GF-101, UDS-399.76, SBA-1383.75 Sq.ft	1,53,00,000/-	15,30,000/-	1,53,000/-
(b)	1st Floor, Flat No.FF-102, UDS-399.76, SBA-1383.75 SQ.ft	1,55,00,000/-	15,50,000/-	1,55,000/-
(c)	2nd Floor, Flat No.SF-103 UDS-400, SBA-1383.75 Sq.ft	1,57,00,000/-	15,70,000/-	1,57,000/-
(d)	3rd Floor, Flat No.TF-01, UDS-399.76, SBA-1383.75 Sq.ft	1,54,00,000/-	15,40,000/-	1,54,000/-

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
22nd May 2025, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**23rd May 2025, 11:00am to 05:00pm**	**27th May 2025, Before 5pm**	**28th May 2025, 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 6364403715.

Sd/-
Special Officer & Competent Authority
(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.

Date: 22-04-2025
Place: Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/393/Zen/2025-26

महाराजा गंगा सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर
निविदा सूचना
विश्वविद्यालय द्वारा ई–निविदा क्रमांक 1022 दिनांक 25.04.2025 के तहत Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Generators for Five Year at MGSU, Bikaner हेतु निविदा जारी की गई है, जिसका एनआईबी GSU2526A0006 यूबीएन GSU2526SLOB00007 है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत जानकारी ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं स्टेट पोर्टल **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर उपलब्ध है।
राज.संवाद/सी/25/1419 **सम्पदा अधिकारी**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-BID
SE(MIS-IT)/BN-8416002501 (UBN-VPN2526A0146)
Online e-Bids are invited from interested bidder for "Establishment Of Next Generation Security Operation Centre (SOC) At Rajasthan State Load Dispatch Centre With AMC For 2 Years" upto 19.05.2025 at 15:00 Hrs.
The Detailed NIB and Bid Document / specifications are available for viewing/downloading on the website **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn.**
Any extension in bid submission/opening date (if any) will be floated/uploaded on **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in only.**
Superintending Engineer
Raj.Samwad/C/25/1428 RRVPN/TR-6804/2025 **(MIS & IT), Jaipur**

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o. The Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), GHMC, Hyderabad.
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Tender Notice No. 01/SE (P-WZ)/GHMC/2025-26 / Date : 28-04-2025
Name of Work: 1) Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of 4 lane composite steel girder bridge on the pipeline road across Fox Sagar Surplus Nala under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis". **(2)** Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Steel Flyover and Underpass at Jubilee Hills Check Post Jn., KBR Park Entrance Jn., and Mugdha Jn, near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-I) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)". **(3)** Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Steel Flyover and Underpass at Road No. 45 Jn., Film Nagar Jn., Maharaja Agrasen Jn. and Cancer Hospital Jn. near KBR Park, GHMC (Package-2) under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)". **(4)** Project Management Consultancy Services for Proof checking, construction supervision, Quality Assurance, Quality Control & Quality Audit for the work of "Construction of Multi Level Flyovers / Grade Separators at two junctions namely Khajaguda Junction, IIIT Junction and Widening and Development of 215 feet Road from CP, Cyberabad Office to Gachibowli Jn. and Widening and Development of Road to 150 feet from Anjaiah Nagar to Ramky tower Road under Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC)/Turnkey Basis". **(5)** Consultancy services for providing State of the Art architectural aesthetics for proposed Grade separators and At-grade roads at IIIT Junction and providing 3D rendered videos.
Events & Date and Time: 1) Start Date (Downloading) : 30.04.2025 from 5.00 PM, **(2) Pre-bid Meeting Date :** 07-05-2025 at 3.00 PM, Location : Office of the Chief Engineer (P), GHMC, 6th Floor CC Complex, Tank Bund, Hyderabad, **(3) Last Date & Time for receipt of Bids:** 21-05-2025 upto 3.00 PM, **(4) Technical Bid Opening:** 21-05-2025 after 4.00 PM, **(5) Price Bid Opening:** 23-05-2025 after 4.00 PM.
Note: The Bidders are advised to visit **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** to download Bid Document and EPC Project Tender Drawings. Any Queries can be addressed to **sesrdppwz@gmail.com**
Address of the officer concerned Sri. G. Sree Lakhsmi, SE(P-WZ), Superintending Engineer (Projects-WZ), Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad.
Further details can be seen at 'e' Procurement **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Projects-WZ), GHMC
DIPR R.O.No.969-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt. 28.04.2025

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI
An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
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The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on June 16, 2025**
Advt.No. 08/2025/IISER-T/Rect./25.04.2025 Sd/- **Director**

ANDHRA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (APICDC)
1st Floor, IHC Corporate, Industrial Park, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dist., AP-522 503.
Email: g.nagabhushanam@gov.in;gnagabhushanam@gmail.com
CE, APICDC invites the tenders for following works:
Tender Notice No: 01 Design, Construction, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure Works at Kopparthy Node under Vishakhapatnam Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC) on EPC basis.
Tender Notice No: 02 Design, Construction, Testing, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of Infrastructure Works at Orvakal Node under Hyderabad Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (HBIC) on EPC basis.
The tender document can be downloaded from the websites : **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** (or) **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** from **28-04-2025** and the last date for bid submission is **12-06-2025,15:00 Hrs**
Sd/- Chief Engineer, APICDC.

SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE (SHAR)
KG School Management Committee (KGSMC)
No. SDSC SHAR: KGSMC: ADV (2):2025 **April 19, 2025**
ADVERTISEMENT
Applications are invited from eligible women candidates for the post of Headmistress, Sr./Jr. Teacher and Attendant-cum-Safaiwala in Kindergarten School functioning at SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Please visit https://sites.google.com/view/kgschoolshar for downloading the advertisement, application form & instructions. The last date for submitting applications is 06th May 2025.
Convener, KGSMC

PRODIGIOUS

Suryavanshi becomes youngest centurion in T20 cricket

R.V. MOORTHY

Vaibhav Suryavanshi smashed the fastest century (35 balls) by an Indian and the second fastest (Chris Gayle: 30b vs Pune Warriors, 2013) in the IPL. The Rajasthan Royals batter is the youngest (14y 32d) to score a century in T20s, breaking Gustav McKeon's record (18y 280d for France against Switzerland in 2022).

SIMPLY AMAZING

Incredible innings... one of the best I have seen, says Jaiswal

R.V. MOORTHY

Incredible innings... one of the best I have seen. Hope he will do it for us for a long time. I was telling him to just keep going. He played some amazing shots... he trains well, works hard in the nets. He has the game and temperament to succeed at the highest level — Yashasvi Jaiswal on Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

YOUNG AND BOLD

'Don't fear about bowlers targeting me... not thinking about all that'

R.V. MOORTHY

I don't see the ground so much, I just focus on the ball. Batting with Yashasvi Jaiswal gives me confidence because he stays positive and keeps giving me advice. It is like a dream to score a century in the IPL. There is no fear about bowlers targeting me as I'm not thinking about all that, I am just focusing on playing — Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

POWERPLAY

It was Suryavanshi's day, his hitting was tremendous: Gill

R.V. MOORTHY

Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill said the day belonged to Vaibhav Suryavanshi. "It was Suryavanshi's day... his hitting was tremendous and he made full use of it. I think they took the game away from us in the PowerPlay. Credit to them for that," said Gill after the eight-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals.

Suryavanshi announces his arrival in Royal style

The 14-year-old smashes a 35-ball hundred and adds 166 with Jaiswal for the opening wicket to make short work of the 210-run target; Gill and Buttler's knocks go in vain for the Gujarat outfit

IPL-18

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

Some nights are magical. So magical, they defy belief. Monday was one such night. It was a starless night, though. But that didn't matter. One of the potential superstars of cricket lit up the Sawai Mansigh Stadium, and well beyond.

Vaibhav Suryanshi played one of the most stunning knocks in the history of the IPL to help Rajasthan Royals score a remarkable eight-wicket victory against Gujarat Titans. The host chased down GT's 209 for four with 4.1 overs to spare.

The 14-year-old also became the league's youngest centurion (101, 38b, 7x4, 11x6). And it was the second fastest hundred (35 balls).

Yes, the records, the numbers. They matter, but not as much as the precocious way he batted or the joy it gave to the viewer.

Suryavanshi was confident way beyond his years, as he destroyed one of the best attacks in the tournament. He was particularly severe on the leg-side, but one of his best shots came over long-off, against Prasidh Krishna.

His pull off Washington Sundar over deep square-leg was another sensational six. He, in fact, dealt mostly in boundaries. The only bowler who made him pause was Rashid Khan.

Suryavanshi's opening-wicket stand with fellow left-hander Yashasiv Jaiswal (70 not out, 40b, 9x4, 2x6) was worth 166, which came off in less than 12 overs. By the time his incredible knock was finally ended by a yorker from Prasidh, he had taken his side closer to what would only be the third win of the season.

Every GT fielder wanted to congratulate the boy, as he walked towards his dressing room, where he got even coach Rahul Dravid excited.

Earlier, it was yet again the magnificent top three that delivered for GT. B. Sai Sudharsan (39, 30b, 4x4, 1x6), and Shubman Gill (84, 50b, 5x4, 4x6) added 93 for the first wicket; they have together made 541 this year. Then Jos Buttler (50 not out, 26b, 3x4, 4x6) made the return to his home ground for seven seasons count.

What nobody counted on was an out-of-the-world knock that would come from a teenager.

Next assignment

RR: May 1 vs MI
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

GT: May 2 vs SRH
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

Breathtaking display: Suryavanshi destroyed the Titans attack — one of the best in the tournament — with an outstanding knock. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS

B. Sai Sudharsan c Parag b Theekshana 39 *(30b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill c Parag b Theekshana 84 *(50b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Jos Buttler (not out) 50 *(26b, 3x4, 4x6)*, Washington Sundar c Hetmyer b Sandeep 13 *(8b, 1x6)*, Rahul Tewatia lbw b Archer 9 *(4b, 1x6)*, M. Shahrukh Khan (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 209.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-93 (Sai Sudharsan, 10.2 overs), 2-167 (Gill, 16.4), 3-193 (Washington, 18.4), 4-202 (Tewatia, 19.2).

ROYALS BOWLING

Archer 4-0-49-1, Theekshana 4-0-35-2, Yudhvir 3-0-38-0, Sandeep 4-0-33-1, Parag 1-0-14-0, Hasaranga 4-0-39-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 70 *(40b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi b Prasidh 101 *(38b, 7x4, 11x6)*, Nitish Rana lbw b Rashid 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Riyan Parag (not out) 32 *(15b, 2x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (for two wkts. in 15.5 overs): 212.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-166 (Suryavanshi, 11.5), 2-171 (Nitish, 12.3).

TITANS BOWLING

Siraj 2-0-24-0, Ishant **(Impact Player for Gill)** 2-0-36-0, Washington 1.5-0-34-0, Prasidh 4-0-47-1, Rashid 4-0-24-1, Janat 1-0-30-0, Sai Kishore 1-0-16-0.

Toss: RR.

PoM: Suryavanshi.

Royals won by eight wickets with 25 deliveries to spare.

Suryavanshi is a special talent and needs to be nurtured properly

P.K. Ajith Kumar
JAIPUR

Not since Sachin Tendulkar smashed Abdul Qadir for four sixes in an over in an exhibition match against Pakistan, way back in 1989, has many teenaged batters caused as much excitement as Vaibhav Suryavanshi did on a manic Monday night here at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

There may never be another Tendulkar, and one innings does not make a great batter, even if that innings happens to be an astonishing 38-ball 101, and the hundred by the youngest ever batter in the IPL, at the age of 14.

But Suryavanshi is clearly a special talent. He has to be nurtured properly.

Remarkable traits

He is too good for his age, even for someone older. He generates power, has commendable bat-swing and has a knack to get into the right position quickly to play his shots. And he dares to take on the best of the bowlers.

Rajasthan Royals' batting coach Vikram Rathour said what the world witnessed during the team's eight-wicket win against Gujarat Titans was something he and they all had been watching at the nets for the past few months.

"We knew what he was capable of and what kind of shots he was capable of playing," he said. "But to do it in front of this kind of crowd, in a situation like this and against a really, really good bowling attack, it was really special."

First impression

Rathour recalled that everyone was impressed when Suryavanshi came for the trials four months earlier.

"All of us knew we found something special," he said. "Our job was to nurture him and to bring him to this level. A lot of credit to him – he kept his nerve."

The former India opener said the youngster had a good head on his shoulders.

"He showed great temperament," he said. "Even in his first couple of games, he showed what he was capable of."

Cynosure: Even the opposition players were in awe of Suryavanshi's knock. R.V. MOORTHY

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers	10	7	3	0	14	0.521
Mumbai Indians	10	6	4	0	12	0.889
Gujarat Titans	9	6	3	0	12	0.748
Delhi Capitals	9	6	3	0	12	0.482
Punjab Kings	9	5	3	1	11	0.177
Lucknow Super Giants	10	5	5	0	10	-0.325
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	5	1	7	0.212
Rajasthan Royals	10	3	7	0	6	-0.349
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	-1.103
Chennai Super Kings	9	2	7	0	4	-1.302

** Till the RR-GT match on April 28*

Spinners and surface in the spotlight as Capitals take on Knight Riders

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

An hour before Kolkata Knight Riders' practice session was officially scheduled to begin at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarthy made their way to the middle and went about their bowling drills on a side pitch for close to an hour.

Without a batter at the other end, the two mystery bowlers were directed to hit spots on the good and full lengths, on which orange markers were placed, under the gaze of spin bowling coach Carl Crowe.

Prelude

It served as a prelude to the instrumental roles they may have to play when KKR faces Delhi Capitals on Tuesday.

Particularly if the surface plays anything like the one that was used for Sunday's game between DC and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, KKR will hope for its two main spinners to step up and make it count. So far this season, both have logged decent numbers without having a decisive say.

In nine matches, Varun, who classifies himself as a leg-spinner, has claimed 11 scalps at an economy of 6.85. Narine has taken just seven wickets in eight matches while conceding 7.75 runs per over.

KKR, which is languishing with three wins in nine matches, is in desperate need of a morale-booster.

On account of the potential threat posed by Narine and Varun, DC mentor Kevin Pietersen said after the defeat to RCB that his team wouldn't want a similar pitch.

In Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Vipraj Nigam, the host has the spinners to trouble the KKR batters. But for the likes of K.L. Rahul, Faf du Plessis, Karun Nair and Tristan Stubbs in DC's batting unit, a sluggish pitch isn't conducive to the nature of their strokeplay.

Fun time: KKR players Varun and Rinku in a relaxed frame of mind ahead of the game against DC. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Today's match

Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 33
DC 15 | KKR 18

PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by seven wickets, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

Race for the caps

ORANGE

	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Sai Sudharsan (GT)	9	456	82	150.00	5
Kohli (RCB)	10	443	73*	138.87	6
Suryakumar (MI)	10	427	68*	169.44	3

PURPLE

	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W
Hazlewood (RCB)	10	18	4/33	8.44	1
Prasidh (GT)	9	17	4/41	7.80	1
Noor (CSK)	9	14	4/18	8.03	1

Till the RR-GT match on April 28

INBRIEF

Taijul's five-for triggers Zimbabwe collapse

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, *right in pic.*, registered his 16th five-wicket haul as Zimbabwe slumped to 227 for nine at the end of the first day of the second Test in Chattogram on Monday.

The scores: Zimbabwe 227/9 in 90 overs (Sean Williams 67, Nick Welch 54, Taijul Islam 5/60) vs Bangladesh.

India dominates in South Asian youth TT championships

India finished with 13 gold and three silver medals in the South Asian youth table tennis championships in Kathmandu on Sunday. This is the qualification event for this year's Asian youth championships. The Indian teams grabbed three gold medals in the under-19 girls and u-15 boys and girls' sections and made a clean sweep of all six golds in the u-19 and -15 doubles, including the mixed doubles events. Additionally, India secured four singles gold medals in the u-19 boys and girls' categories.

Honda Racing India's Kavin, Johann shine in ARRC round one

Honda Racing India team riders Kavin Quintal and Johann Reeves produced promising performances in round one of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship in Buriram (Thailand) on Sunday. Kavin earned three points in race 2, while Johann bagged a point in race 1, bringing their cumulative team total to four points for this season in the Asia Production 250cc (AP250) class. Kavin and Johann finished race 1 at 19th and 15th position and race 2 at 13th and 18th position, respectively. The 19-year-old Kavin started the 10-lap race from the 23rd grid position in race 1.

Saigo wins LPGA Chevron C'ship for first major title

Japan's Mao Saigo birdied the first extra hole to win a five-woman playoff and capture her first major title on Sunday by winning the LPGA Chevron Championship at Houston. Saigo sank a birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation to fire a final-round two-over par 74 and finish 72 holes on seven-under 281 just to reach the playoff. At the 18th again in the playoff, Saigo sank a four-foot birdie putt to capture the crown.

Big shift: Rice played a major part in Arsenal getting past Real in the quarterfinals. GETTY IMAGES

Can the Gunners outshoot PSG?

Arsenal will take confidence from its 2-0 win over the French outfit in the league phase; the visitor will aim for a hat-trick of English scalps

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta will have to beat one of the most influential figures in his football life when the Gunners face Luis Enrique's Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League semifinals.

Arteta's side hosts PSG in the first leg on Tuesday as the Spaniard aims to lead Arsenal to only the second Champions League final appearance in its history.

Luis Enrique was a senior star at Barcelona when Arteta started his playing career at the Camp Nou, a period that had a major impact on his managerial philosophy with Arsenal.

"He was extremely supportive with the young players, he was one of the main characters by far. I have really good memories of him," Arteta said.

The pupil has already got the better of his mentor once this season, when Arsenal eased to a 2-0 win over PSG in the league phase at the Emirates in October.

Arsenal has never won the tournament, losing to Barcelona in the 2006 final, while PSG has a tortured recent history, beaten by Bayern Munich in its only final in 2020.

Securing the European holy grail would make Arteta immortal in north London and banish any questions about his ability to win major trophies.

The Gunners have gone five years without silverware since Arteta won the only prize of his reign in the FA Cup.

Arsenal head into the PSG tie emboldened by its swaggering 5-1 aggregate dismissal of holder Real Madrid in the quarterfinals.

PSG has already knocked out Liverpool and Aston Villa, setting it up for a hat-trick of English scalps if it gets past Arsenal.

Semifinal first-leg schedule
Arsenal vs PSG (12.30 a.m. Wednesday)
Barcelona vs Inter Milan (12.30 a.m. Thursday)

Chithambaram beats Topalov, in third spot

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WARSAW

Making his debut in the Grand Chess tour, India's Aravindh Chithambaram had a good second day as he defeated former world champion Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and drew the last two games to find himself in the sole third spot of the Superbet Rapid and blitz chess here.

With each win worth two points, Alireza Firouza of France and Vladimir Fedoseev of Russia share the lead with eight points each while Aravindh is following them seven points.

Three players – Levon Aronian (USA), Deac Bogdan Dianel (Romania) and Duda Jan-Krzyzstof (Poland) – shared the fourth spot with six each, a point ahead of R. Praggnanandhaa, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) and David Gavrilescu (Romania). Topalov is at the bottom with just four points.

Indian women's baseball team qualifies for Asian Cup

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

The Indian women's baseball team on Monday qualified for the Asian Cup to be held this year after entering the gold medal match of the qualifying tournament here.

India beat Thailand 6:5 to finish second in Super Round stage standings, while Indonesia took the top spot. The top two teams from the Super Round qualify for the main Asia Cup tournament.

The top two teams – Indonesia and India – will also face in the gold medal match on Tuesday.

In the eight-team Women's Baseball Asia Cup Qualifiers, India had topped Group-A after winning all three matches – against Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Iran. Indonesia had topped Group-B.

The top two teams from each group qualified for the Super Round stage.

In the Super Round, India lost to Indonesia before Monday's win over Thailand. India had also competed in the Asian Cup in 2023 where it failed to get past the opening round.

LIVE TELECAST

Women ODI tri-series: India vs South Africa, FanCode, 10 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

21 Indian boxers to fight for gold at junior Asian championships

Press Trust of India
AMMAN

India continued its strong showing at junior Asian championships with seven more boxers, including six women, booking their place in the under-17 finals here on Sunday. Fourteen had already made it to the title round on Sunday.

Ahaana Sharma (50kg) stormed into the final with a first-round knockout victory over Kyrgyzstan's Akmaral Amantaieva.

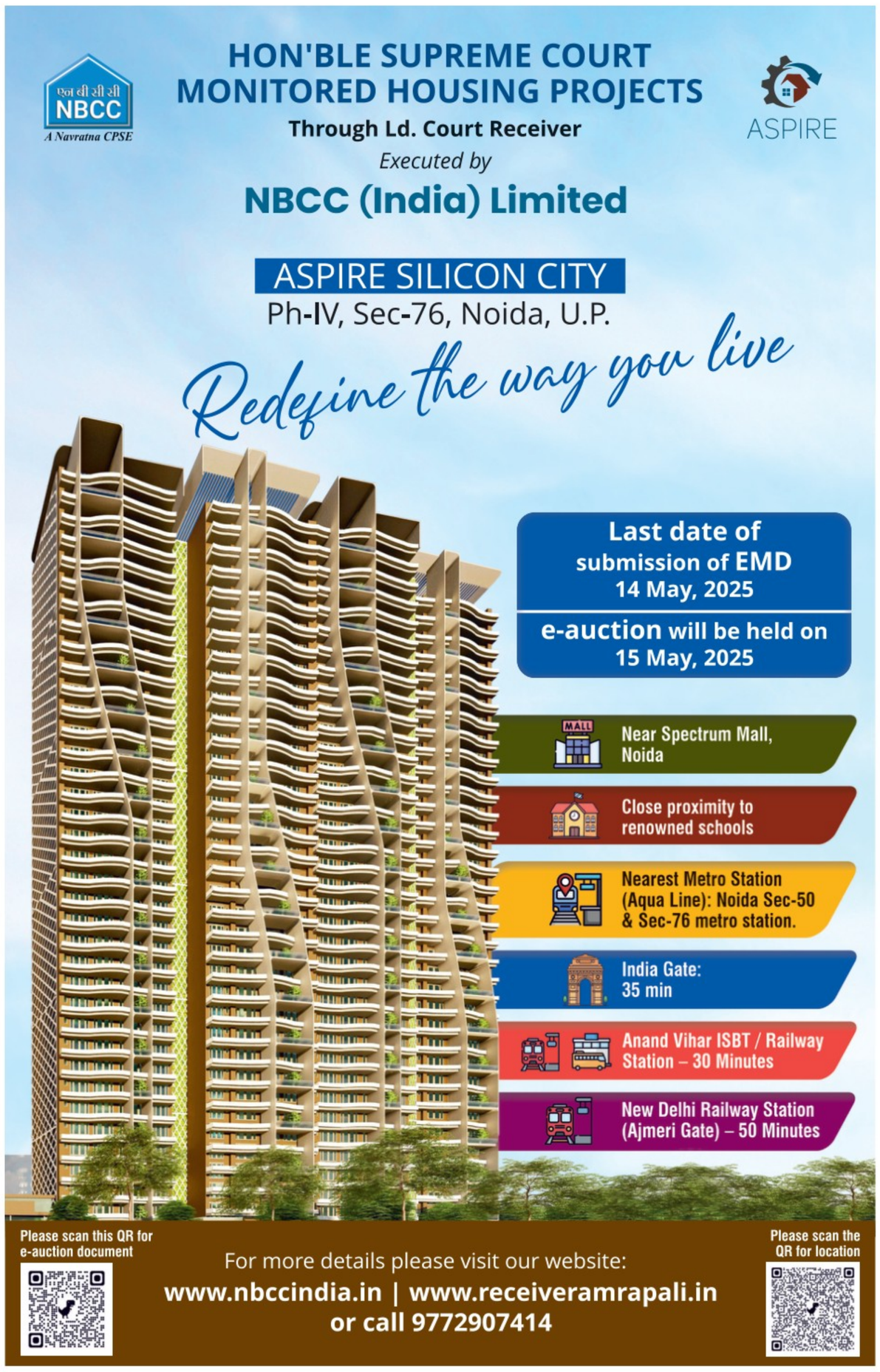
Khushi Chand (44-46kg) edged out Ukraine's Oleksandra Cherevata 3-2 while Jannat (54kg), Simranjeet Kaur (60kg), Harsika (63kg), and Anshika (80+kg) also registered wins. In men's u-17 section, Devansh (80kg) beat Vietnam's Nguyen Trong Tien 4-1 and secured final spot.

AFC u-20 women's Asian Cup qualifiers groupings announced

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India has been clubbed with Myanmar, Indonesia and Turkmenistan in Group D of the AFC under-20 Women's Asian Cup football championship, following the draw in Kuala Lumpur. Myanmar will host Group D of the qualifiers between August 6 and 10 in a centralised single round-robin format.

Group A has five teams while the rest seven have four each. The group winners and the three best runners-up, along with final round host country Thailand, will complete the cast of 12 teams for the 12th edition of the tournament, which will take place from April 1 to 18.



Ishaan and Rivaan begin well in karting competition

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Home talent Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) and Chennai's Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) produced a dazzling show in the first round of the MECO Meritus Cup karting competition at the MECO Kartopia track on Sunday.

Ishaan reigned supreme in the Senior Max category where he won both the Sprint races besides topping the qualifying session to pick up maximum points and top the table. Similarly, Rivaan won both Sprint races in Mini Max category as he held off Chennai driver Rehan Khan.

Podium finishers: Rivaan flanked by Rehan, right, and Hamza.

The results:
Senior Max – Sprint Race 1 (14 laps): 1. Ishaan Madesh (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (13mins, 08.334secs); 2. Arafath Sheikh (Pune, Crest Motorsport) (13:10.090); 3. Neythan McPherson (Pune, Crest Motorsport) (13:14.558). **Sprint Race 2:** 1. Ishaan (13:09.827); 2. Arafath (13:11.029); 3. Nikilesh Raju (Bengaluru, MSPORT) (13:11.454).
OK Junior (15 laps): 1. Arafath (Pune, Crest Motorsport) (14:12.912); 2. Kairav Roberson (Chennai, MSPORT) (14:14.878); 3. Eshanth Vengatesan (Chennai, MSPORT) (14:17.251).
Micro Max – Sprint Race 1 (10 laps): Shiv Tummala (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (10:17.782); Jishnu Seralathan (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (10:30.299); 3. Shivneel (Coimbatore, MSPORT) (10:30.531).
Race 2 (12 laps): 1. Shiv (12:43.633); 2. Jishnu (12:46.972); 3, Zidaan Arshaan (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (13:09.008).
Mini Max – Sprint Race 1 (10 laps): 1. Rivaan Dev Preetham (Chennai, MSPORT) (09:56.463); 2. Rehan Khan (Chennai, MSPORT) (09:58.279); 3. Yatharth Gaur (Faridabad, Leapfrog Racing) (10:07.925).
Race 2 (12 laps): 1. Rivaan (12:15.500); 2. Hamza Balasinorwala (Crest Motorsport) (12:15.941); 3. Rehan (12:20.841).

India runs into Indonesia in battle for survival

SUDIRMAN CUP

Press Trust of India
XIAMEN (CHINA)

Faced with a herculean task to trump a formidable Indonesia and stay afloat in the competition, an understrength India will need its struggling singles stars to deliver the goods in a must-win Group D contest at the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals here on Tuesday.

Disastrous start
India's campaign began on a disastrous start on Sunday with a 1-4 defeat to Denmark, a result that put their qualification for the knockout stage in serious jeopardy.

With only two teams progressing from Group D, India must secure a win against Indonesia to keep their hopes alive otherwise, their third and final group match against England will be reduced to just a formality.